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Fort Riley Building Inventory and Evaluation, 1964–1974

Volume 1 of 2

Susan I. Enscoe, Ellen R. Hartman, and Julie L. Webster

August 2017



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Cover Photo. Fort Riley buildings, left to right: 5315, chapel; 9113, observation tower; and 7720, maintenance and motor pool building (ERDC-CERL, 2015–16).

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Volume 1 of 2

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Abstract

This two-volume report documents an architectural survey of 102 buildings and structures constructed from 1964 to 1974 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Volume 1 includes an analysis of the eligibility of these buildings and structures to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Volume 2 contains actual building forms and its access is controlled by Fort Riley for security reasons. During the covered period, Fort Riley's primary mission was training recruits for deployment to South Vietnam. As a result, the relevant theme developed for determining historical significance at Fort Riley is *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam*. Of the facilities inventoried, none achieved significance under this theme, and therefore no facilities were determined to be eligible to the NRHP. However, a group of ten facilities associated with training ranges may be significant under this theme and need to be evaluated as component parts of range sites. The remaining facilities inventoried and evaluated at Fort Riley are support structures that are not directly related to the theme of *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam* and are not a property type eligible under this theme.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the Cultural Resources Office, Conservation Branch, Environmental Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, under Project Number 453125, “Fort Riley Building Inventory Update 1964–1974.” The technical monitor was Ms. Theresa de la Garza, Cultural Resources Manager, Fort Riley, Kansas.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CNC) of the Installations Division (CN), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Dr. Michael Hargrave was Chief, CEERD-CNC, and Ms. Michelle Hanson was Chief, CEERD-CN. The Deputy Director of ERDC-CERL was Dr. Kirankumar Topudurti, and the Director was Dr. Ilker Adiguzel.

The authors would like to acknowledge the following Fort Riley Directorate of Public Works personnel: Ms. Fiona Price, Archeologist, Environmental Division; Mr. Dave Young, Engineering Technician, Engineering Division; and Ms. Paula Fultz, Real Property Accountable Officer, Master Planning Division; for their assistance during the research phase of this project. Dr. Robert Smith, Museum Director under the Center for Military History, also deserves acknowledgement. Together, their expertise and generous access to records enabled the project team to complete their field work successfully and in a timely manner.

COL Bryan S. Green was the Commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the Director.

Unit Conversion Factors

Multiply	By	To Obtain
acres	4,046.873	square meters
feet	0.3048	meters
square feet	0.09290304	square meters
yards	0.9144	meters

Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AIT	Advanced Individual Training
AVF	All-Volunteer Force
BCT	Basic Combat Training
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CMF	Career Management Field
CONARC	Continental Army Command
CONUS	Continental United States
DoD	Department of Defense
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
ELPA	eligible under program alternative
ERDC-CERL	Engineer Research and Development Center- Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
FY	fiscal year
ID	Infantry Division
KP	kitchen “police”
MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty
MVF	Modern Volunteer Force
MWR	Morale, Welfare and Recreation
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NCO	non-commissioned officer
NCSHPO	National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OCE	Office of the Chief of Engineers
PA	programmatic agreement
PMOA	programmatic memorandum of agreement
POC	point of contact
POR	Preparation of Replacements
POW	prisoner of war
REFORGER	Return of Forces to Germany
UPH	unaccompanied personnel housing

Term	Meaning
VC	Viet Cong
VOLAR	Volunteer Army
WAC	Women's Army Air Corps
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II

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1 Methodology

1.1 Background

The U.S. Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA),¹ the nation's most effective cultural resources legislation to date, in order to provide guidelines and requirements for preserving tangible elements of the nation's past. This widespread preservation was done primarily by creating the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1966. Contained within the NHPA (Sections 110 and 106) are requirements for federal agencies to address their historic properties, which are defined as "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included on, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register, including artifacts, records, and material remains relating to the district, site, building, structure, or object."² Section 110 requires federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources. Section 106 requires the determination of effect of federal undertakings on properties deemed eligible, or at a level of maturity to require evaluation for eligibility to the NRHP. Fulfilling Section 110 obligations allows federal agencies to be better prepared to make determinations of effect under Section 106.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this study were to: (1) inventory all buildings and structures constructed from 1964 through 1974; (2) research the history of those buildings and structures; and (3) assess the eligibility of the buildings and structures according to NRHP guidelines. Inventory and evaluation of these facilities was required for NHPA compliance because they had reached or were close to reaching 50 years of age, and thus were at a level of maturity requiring evaluation.

1.3 Approach

As per Section 110 of the NHPA, Fort Riley needs to evaluate all of its sufficiently mature buildings and structures for eligibility to the NRHP. Under

¹ U.S. Congress, National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, PL 89-665, 54 U.S.C. (Washington, DC: U.S. Congress, 1996).

² Ibid., Section 300308.

a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), the Engineer Research and Development Center's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL) was retained to undertake the project by completing inventories and determinations of eligibility for the Fort Riley properties.

For a property to qualify for the NRHP, it must: (1) meet at least one of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, (2) be significantly associated with an important historic context, and (3) retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance under that context. Several steps were involved to complete the process for determining eligibility to the NRHP: physical inventory, archival research, evaluation of significance, evaluation of integrity, and determination of eligibility.

1.3.1 Site visits

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted two research trips to Fort Riley in October 2015 and April 2016. Field work conducted during those trips included physical evaluations of buildings and structures, as well as archival research in various offices and repositories both on and off the installation. A visit was made to the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, to locate additional historic photographs and textual information.

1.3.2 Architectural inventory

The historic architect prepared a list from information provided by the Fort Riley point of contact (POC) and the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) office for buildings and structures to be surveyed. The facilities were inventoried to provide architectural information and current conditions. Both field notes and digital photographs were taken to provide the data necessary to describe each building.

A full listing of architectural building forms is contained in Volume 2 of this report, which is restricted as "For Official Use Only" due to installation security concerns.

1.3.3 Archival research

Archival research was conducted to gather information used in creating the historic context and significance statement. Archival research involves several tasks. The first task is the initial literature review. The second is to

identify and locate primary research materials. The third task is to analyze the materials.

1.3.3.1 Initial literature review

The project team reviewed published material to determine the general history of Fort Riley for the time period under study. The material included government reports, and books and newspaper articles from the Fort Riley vicinity found at area libraries and museums. Primary among these resources were three previous facility inventories and evaluations conducted for Fort Riley by ERDC-CERL: *Historical and Architectural Documentation Reports for Fort Riley, Kansas* (1993–1994);³ *Fort Riley Early Cold War Building Inventory and Evaluation, 1953–1960*;⁴ and *Fort Riley Building Inventory and Evaluation, 1946–1952 and 1961–1963*.⁵ These three reports were consolidated into “*Comprehensive Inventory and Determinations of Eligibility for Fort Riley Buildings: 1857–1963*”⁶ providing Fort Riley with determinations of eligibility for facilities constructed from 1857 through 1963.

1.3.3.2 Primary research material

The project team located primary research materials and additional secondary materials to enhance the published sources. This report is based primarily on the collections found at Fort Riley, including the review of cultural resource studies, historical accounts, real property data, construction program documentation, and visual information (photographs, technical illustrations, architectural drawings, maps, charts, etc.). Textual and mapping resources were provided by the Cultural Resources Office, Conservation Branch, Environmental Division, and Fort Riley’s Museum Division provided textual and photographic resources. The Real Estate Office of the DPW provided information on individual facilities, including architectural plans. Digital archives of the *Junction City Union* newspaper were

³ Pamela Andros, Dan Lapp, Mira Metzinger, Patrick Nowlan, Carla Spradlin, Steve Turner, and Julie Webster, *Historical and Architectural Documentation Reports for Fort Riley, Kansas*, (Champaign, IL: Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 1993), Revised 1994. Not published for access by the general public; readers may contact the issuing organization for further information.

⁴ Susan I. Enscoe and Julie L. Webster, *Fort Riley Building Inventory 1953–1960*, ERDC/CERL TR-07-44 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2007).

⁵ Susan I. Enscoe, Julie L. Webster, and Matthew J. Claus, *Fort Riley Building Inventory and Evaluation, 1946–1952 and 1961–1963*, ERDC/CERL LR-08-1 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2008).

⁶ Susan I. Enscoe and Julie L. Webster, *Comprehensive Historical and Architectural Documentation Report for Fort Riley, Kansas*, ERDC-CERL MP-09-1 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2009).

accessed courtesy of the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City, Kansas.⁷ Historic photographs were located in the records of the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

1.4 Analysis and evaluation

Archival material was integrated with the collected physical survey data to tell the Fort Riley development history through text and images. The information used in this report came from textual documents, photographs, and historical maps.

Using information from the historic context, facilities under study were evaluated for their relevance to the historically significant themes; if significance was present, then facilities were evaluated for retention of their integrity. These decisions resulted in the determinations of eligibility to the NRHP. The evaluation followed guidelines in National Register Bulletin #15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*;⁸ National Register Bulletin #16A, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*;⁹ and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.¹⁰

1.5 Facilities exempted from evaluation

Beginning in the late 1980s and picking up momentum in the 2000s, the Department of Defense (DoD) sought a more cost-effective means to inventory and evaluate potentially historic buildings on military installations. Recognizing that many building types are repeated in great numbers across many installations, the DoD, along with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), created a series of agreements that allow the military to meet its NHPA obligations for entire classes of buildings at once in a nationwide manner. These agreements are in the form of

⁷ Webpage for Bramlage Public Library's digital archives: <http://jclib.advantage-preservation.com/>.

⁸ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997).

⁹ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997).

¹⁰ Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1995).

Programmatic Agreements (PA), Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (PMOA), and Program Comments; these documents offer an alternative to the case-by-case approach to inventory and evaluation.

At Fort Riley, two Program Comments were found to apply to this project, and they affect certain buildings constructed at the installation from 1964–1974. The “Program Comment for Cold War Era Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (1946–1974)” was signed 18 August 2006. This Program Comment is a DoD-wide agreement that declares all buildings and structures designed and built for unaccompanied personnel housing (UPH) from 1946 through 1974 to be eligible to the NRHP.¹¹ The Program Comment covers all ongoing operations, maintenance and repair, rehabilitation, renovation, mothballing, cessation of maintenance, new construction, demolition, deconstruction and salvage, remediation activities, and transfer, sale, lease, and closure of such facilities constructed from 1946 through 1974. A historic context study for Army UPH has been completed as mitigation.¹² For the Army, the UPH designation applies to all buildings with a current or original category code beginning with 72 and includes barracks, transient lodging, dining facilities, laundry facilities, garages and carports, hutments, tent pads, and bachelor officer quarters. Therefore, at Fort Riley, no evaluation judgment is necessary for these types of buildings, because they are considered eligible to the NRHP for purposes of Section 106 compliance regardless of their level of integrity. In light of this Program Comment, the buildings constructed from 1964–1974 that fall under its eligibility determinations and are therefore not evaluated in this report are: 7604, 7606, 7614, 7616, 7648, 7656, 7806, 7842, 7844, 7846, 7848, 7850, 7854, 7856, and 9301.

Additionally, the “Program Comment for World War II and Cold War Era (1939–1974) Ammunition Storage Facilities” became effective 18 August 2006.¹³ This Program Comment applies DoD-wide to all buildings and

¹¹ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, *Program Comment for Cold War Era Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (1946–1974)*, Prepared for Department of Defense (Washington, DC: ACHP, 2007) <http://www.achp.gov/progalt/DoD%20UPH%20program%20comment.pdf>.

¹² Kuranda, Kathryn M., with Brian Cleven, Nathaniel Patch, Katherine Grandine, and Christine Heidenrich, *Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) During the Cold War (1946–1989)* (Frederick, Maryland: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, 2003).

¹³ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, *Program Comment for World War II and Cold War Era (1939–1974) Ammunition Storage Facilities* (Washington DC: ACHP, 2006) https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/program_alternatives.html?fm-culres.

structures designed and built from 1939 through 1974 as ammunition storage facilities, and it determines them all to be eligible to the NRHP. An existing historic context for these buildings will be expanded to meet mitigation requirements.¹⁴ The Program Comment covers all ongoing operations, maintenance and repair, rehabilitation, renovation, mothballing, cessation of maintenance, new construction, demolition, deconstruction and salvage, remediation activities, and transfer, sale, lease, and closure of such facilities constructed from 1939 through 1974. For the Army, this applies to all buildings with a current or original category code beginning with 42 and includes ammunition bunkers, magazines, and igloo storage. For these types of Fort Riley buildings, no evaluation judgment is necessary, because they are considered eligible to the NRHP for purposes of Section 106 compliance regardless of level of integrity. In light of this Program Comment, any buildings given to researchers that were constructed from 1946–1963 and that fall under this Program Comment’s eligibility determinations and are therefore not evaluated in this report are: 950, 954, and 955.

1.6 Researchers

This project was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ research laboratory, ERDC-CERL, based in Champaign, Illinois. The research team included Susan Enscoe, PhD, as project manager and historian; Julie Webster, Master of Architecture, as researcher; and Ellen Hartman, Master of Landscape Architecture, as researcher.

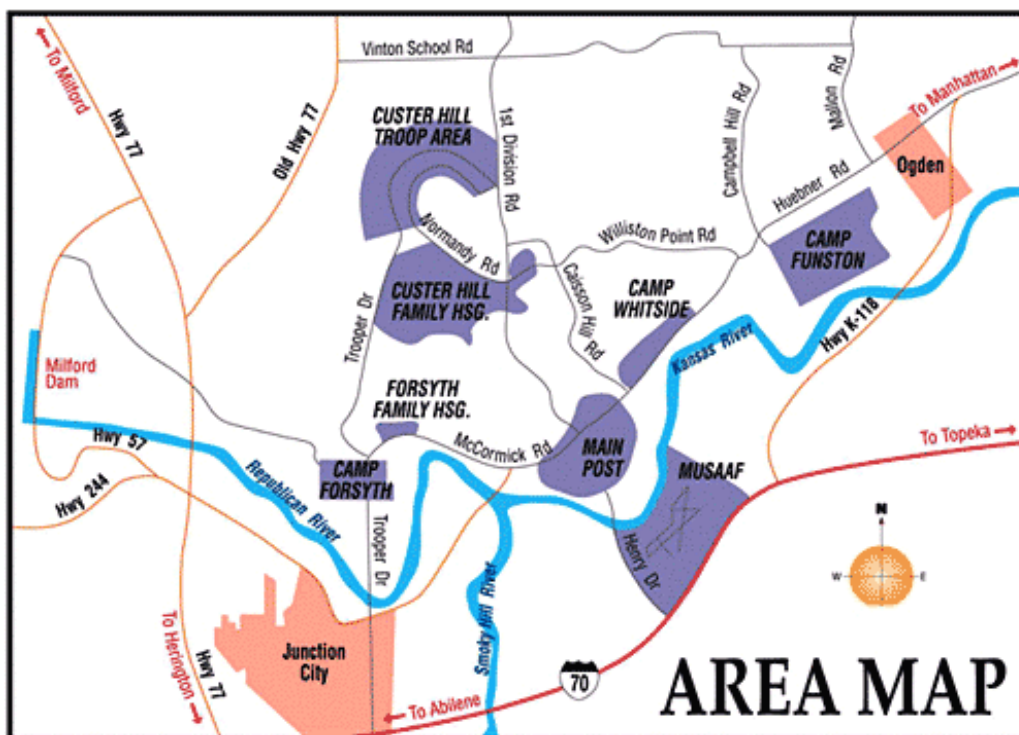
1.7 Fort Riley location and layout

Fort Riley is located in the northeastern part of Kansas (about 135 miles west of Kansas City and 130 miles north-northeast of Wichita). It was established in 1852 at the site where the Smoky Hill and Republican Rivers join to form the Kansas River, just east and a little north of Junction City. Fort Riley today consists of six cantonments which are the Main Post, Camp Funston, Marshall Army Airfield, Camp Whitside, Camp Forsyth, and Custer Hill (Figure 1). The historic areas of the fort are located along the lowlands and floodplain of the two rivers, while modern housing and training areas are found on land north of the original post. Training lands

¹⁴ Joseph Murphey, Dwight Packer, Cynthia Savage, Duane E. Peters, and Marsha Prior., *Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage in the United States, 1775–1945*, (Fort Worth: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District, 2000).

extend primarily to the north and northwest of the collective cantonment area.

Figure 1. Map of Fort Riley, 2007 (<http://www.riley.army.mil/OurPost/Maps.asp.mil>).



1.8 Buildings and structures surveyed

There were 102 facilities at Fort Riley surveyed for this study. A list of these facilities is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. List of buildings and structures inventoried.¹⁵

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
238	1968	Grandstand/Bleachers	Grandstand/Bleachers	
950	1969	Igloo Storage	Igloo Storage	Y/ELPA ¹⁶
954	1969	Igloo Storage	Igloo Storage	Y/ELPA

¹⁵ Removed from list during survey: 9393 – newer facility renumbered in 1991; 104 and 6344 – public schools recently returned to Fort Riley real property rolls and will be evaluated separately.

¹⁶ Eligible under programmatic agreement (ELPA)

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
<i>Table 1 (cont'd). List of buildings and structures inventoried.</i>				
955	1969	Igloo Storage	Igloo Storage	Y/ELPA
2365	1969	Exchange Maintenance Shop	Exchange Maintenance Shop	
5202	1966	Golf Clubhouse	Sports Pro Shop	
5315	1965	Chapel	Chapel	
5320	1965	Exchange Service Station	Exchange Auto Service	
7305	1966	Special Weapons Training Building	General Instruction Building	
7350	1966	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7351	1966	Battalion Storage Building	Organizational Storage Building	
7352	1966	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7485	1969	Bowling Center	Bowling Center	
7514	1969	Booster Pumping Station	Potable Pump Station	
7602	1969	Administration and Supply Building	Company Headquarters Building	
7604	1969	Enlisted Personnel Mess	Organization Classroom	Y/ELPA
7606	1969	Enlisted Personnel Mess	Health Clinic	Y/ELPA
7608	1969	Administration and Supply Building	Company Headquarters Building	
7614	1969	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH/ Company Headquarters	Y/ELPA
7616	1969	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH/ Company Headquarters	Y/ELPA
7624	1969	Battalion Administration and Classroom	Battalion Headquarters Building	
7626	1969	Dispensary w/o Beds	Brigade Headquarters Building	
7630	1969	Battalion Administration and Classroom	Organizational Classroom	
7632	1969	Gymnasium	Physical Fitness Center	
7638	1969	Battalion Administration and Classroom	Battalion Headquarters Building	

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
<i>Table 1 (cont'd). List of buildings and structures inventoried.</i>				
7640	1969	Exchange retail store, cafeteria, barber shop, and laundry/tailor shop	Exchange Branch	
7648	1969	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH	Y/ELPA
7656	1969	Enlisted Personnel Mess	Organization Classroom	Y/ELPA
7658	1969	Administration and Supply Building	Company Headquarters Building	
7665	1966	Dental clinic	Health Clinic	
7717	1970	Range Support	Range Operations Building	
7720	1969	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7721	1969	Administration and Shop Building	Administration/Shop Control	
7722	1969	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7724	1969	Oil House	Oil Storage Building	
7740	1969	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7741	1970	General Storehouse	Organizational Storage Building	
7742	1969	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7744	1969	Oil House	Oil Storage Building	
7760	1969	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7761	1970	General Storehouse	Organizational Storage Building	
7762	1969	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7775	1969	Elevated Water Tank	Potable Water Storage Tank	
7780	1969	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7781	1970	General Storehouse	Organizational Storage Building	
7782	1969	Dispatch Office	Access Control Facility	
7806	1969	Enlisted Personnel Mess	Battalion Headquarters/ Organization Classroom	Y/ELPA

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
<i>Table 1 (cont'd). List of buildings and structures inventoried.</i>				
7808	1970	Administration and Supply Building	General Purpose Admin	
7824	1970	Battalion Administration and Classroom	Organizational Classroom	
7826	1970	Dispensary w/o Beds	General Purpose Admin	
7832	1970	Gymnasium	Physical Fitness Center	
7834	1971	Regiment/Brigade Headquarters Building	Brigade Headquarters Building	
7836	1970	Battalion Administration and Classroom	General Purpose Admin	
7840	1970	Exchange Branch	Exchange Branch	
7842	1972	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH/ Company Headquarters	Y/ELPA
7844	1970	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH	Y/ELPA
7846	1970	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH/ Company Headquarters	Y/ELPA
7848	1970	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH	Y/ELPA
7850	1970	Enlisted UPH	Enlisted UPH/ Company Headquarters	Y/ELPA
7852	1970	Administration and Support Building	General Purpose Admin	
7854	1970	Enlisted Personnel Mess	Battalion Headquarters/ Organization Classroom	Y/ELPA
7856	1970	Dining Facility	Dining Facility	Y/ELPA
7858	1970	Administration and Support Building	Company Headquarters Building	
7865	1970	Unit Chapel	Normandy Chapel (reconstructed in 1984 after fire in 1981)	
7900	1969	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7901	1970	General Storehouse/Deployment Storage Brigade	Administration/Shop Control	
7902	1969	Dispatch Office	Access Control Facility	
7904	1969	Oil House	Oil Storage Building	

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
<i>Table 1 (cont'd). List of buildings and structures inventoried.</i>				
7920	1973	Motor Repair Shop	General Purpose Storage	
7921	1973	Supply Maintenance Warehouse	Installation General Purpose Storage	
7922	1973	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7923	1973	Gas Station, with Building	Installation Flammable Material Storage	
7932	1973	Washrack	Organizational Wash Platform	
7940	1972	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7941	1973	Deployment Storage Brigade	Organizational Storage Building	
7942	1973	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7944	1972	Oil House	Oil Storage Building	
7960	1972	Motor Repair Shop	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	
7961	1973	Deployment Storage Brigade	Organizational. Storage Building	
7962	1973	Dispatch Office	Dispatch Building	
7964	1972	Oil House	Oil Storage Building	
8065	1977	Dispensary w/o beds	Brigade Headquarters Building/ Embedded Behavior Health	
8129	1973	Potable Water Pump	Potable Pump Station	
9001	1969	Applied Instruction Building/ Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9083	1970	Range House	Range Support Facility	
9084	1970	Applied Instruction Building/ Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9090	1969	Range House	Range Operations Building	
9112	1969	Range House	Range Operations Building (moved)	

Facility Number	Year Built	Original Function	Current Function	Determined eligible during inventory phase
<i>Table 1 (cont'd). List of buildings and structures inventoried.</i>				
9113	1969	Observation Tower	Observation Tower (moved)	
9160	1969	Applied Instruction Building/ Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9204	1969	Range House	Range Operations Building	
9208	1969	Observation Tower	Observation Tower	
9210	1969	Water Well	Water Support/Treatment Building	
9221	1969	Range Support Building	Range Support Facility with Above-ground LP Gas Storage	
9241	1969	Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9264	1969	Range House	Range Operations Building	
9300	1969	Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9301	1969	Dining Facility	Dining Facility	Y/ELPA
9302	1969	Range Support Building	Range Support Facility	
9305	1969	Water Well	Potable Water Well	
9309	1970	Range Mess Building	Range Support Facility (moved)	
9375	1969	Loading and unloading docks/ ammunition platform	Load/Unload Dock/Ramp	

2 Historic Context

The following historic context situates the evaluated buildings and structures within the overall development of Fort Riley. The developmental history of Fort Riley informs the NRHP evaluations of the significance of the surveyed buildings and structures. The Vietnam War was the primary historical event on a national scale, and also the major driver of activities and developments at Fort Riley during the period under study. A brief history of Fort Riley's development from 1852–1963 is provided first; this is followed by an overview of the Vietnam War and combat training activities, and then by a history of the impacts of the Vietnam War on Fort Riley's missions and development from 1964 to 1974. Events that might have led to physical modifications or changes in use to the facilities after the period under study will need to be considered at a future date when sufficient historical perspective exists for understanding those event's level of significance.

2.1 Fort Riley, 1852–1963¹⁷

2.1.1 Establishment and protection for westward expansion

In the early 1850s, the U.S. Army realized that a fort located west of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was needed to more adequately protect traders and settlers moving along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. In July of 1852, the commanding officer of Fort Leavenworth, Colonel T.T. Fauntleroy, recommended that a post be established “at or near a point on the Kansas River where the Republican fork unites with it.”¹⁸ In September of the same year, General U.S. Clarke of the Sixth Military Department appointed a board of officers to select the location for the new post somewhere near the forks of the Kansas River. These men traveled to and chose the present site of Fort Riley. Believing they were near the United States' geographical center, they initially named the new post Camp Center. Camp Center was strategically located at the junction of the Republican and Smokey Hill Rivers to provide protection for users of the Santa Fe Trail, the Smoky Hill Trail,

¹⁷ This section adapted from Susan I. Enscoe and Julie L. Webster, *Comprehensive Historical and Architectural Documentation Report for Fort Riley, Kansas*, ERDC-CERL MP-09-1.

¹⁸ W.F. Pride, *The History Of Fort Riley* (U.S. Cavalry Museum and Fort Riley Historical and Archeology Society, 1926), 60–61.

and the Oregon Trail.¹⁹ The board submitted its report in November 1852, and it was approved the following January.²⁰

In May 1853, Captain Charles S. Lovell arrived at Camp Center bringing with him Companies B, F, and H of the Sixth Infantry. Congress appropriated \$65,000 for the erection of buildings, presumably temporary, which the men of the Sixth Infantry occupied that year. In June 1853, the name of the post was officially changed to Fort Riley in honor of the recently deceased Major General Bennett Riley.²¹ Bennett Riley earned distinction as an able cavalryman, commanded the first wagon train escort over the Santa Fe Trail in 1829, fought in the Mexican War, and became the last territorial governor of California (in 1847).²²

As 1855 came to a close, twelve major buildings and several auxiliary structures had been completed. The nucleus of the installation was formed by the construction of officer's quarters and barracks around a rectangular parade ground. Other buildings included a hospital, guard house, sutler's store, carpenter, saddler, and blacksmith shops, stables, ice house, commissary storehouse, magazine, chapel and parsonage. Native limestone was used to construct the first permanent buildings and subsequent buildings at Fort Riley.

Fort Riley was mainly garrisoned by volunteer troops during the Civil War, and the post fell into disrepair due to lack of use. In the late 1860s, rising troubles with Native Americans led to the 7th Cavalry Regiment (under the command of Col. Andrew J. Smith and then Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer) being stationed at Fort Riley to protect settlers and workers on the nearby Union Pacific Railroad. This famous regiment participated in many important battles during the Great Indian Wars of 1867-68, most notably the Battle of Little Big Horn which took place in Montana on 25 June 1876.²³

¹⁹ Robinson & Associates, *Fort Riley: An Historic Overview*, V.I., Report prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (Washington, DC, October 1989), 11.

²⁰ Catherine Crawford, "Historical Information: The Planning of Fort Riley, 1852-1939" in *Fort Riley Family Quarters Documentation Project*, HABS No. KS-54 (Washington, DC: National Park Service, September 1985), 61.

²¹ Pride, *The History Of Fort Riley*, 61.

²² *Fort Riley: Its Historic Past*, (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981), 16, 565-238/115 Region No.6.

²³ *ibid.*, 19.

By the mid-1870s, the Native Americans in Kansas had been subdued and placed on reservations and the state was becoming settled.²⁴ During 1884–1886, Fort Riley became the headquarters of the U.S. Cavalry, and home to an Army light artillery school and an Army cavalry school. Establishment of these schools at Fort Riley spurred a great era of construction and expansion at the installation.²⁵ Under the command of Constructing Quartermaster Captain George E. Pond and his designs, a \$200,000 appropriation for construction of facilities resulted in separate but adjoining cavalry and artillery posts at Fort Riley.²⁶ The new limestone buildings constructed for the artillery and cavalry from 1887 through 1909 provided barracks space, officers' quarters, stables, storehouses, gun sheds, guard houses, administration buildings, and separate parade grounds.

The Cavalry and Light Artillery Schools were officially opened in 1893, marking the beginning of Fort Riley's recognition as an important base of advanced military training. The schools offered theory and practical instruction in drill and firing practice, stable management, and horse training. Entire units, not individual men, were sent to Fort Riley to take part in the instruction the schools offered.

2.1.2 World War I to World War II, 1917–1945

Fort Riley played a significant role during the nation's involvement in World War I (WWI). In 1917, responding to events taking place in Europe, President Wilson enacted a draft law authorizing federal conscription for the armed forces. This action created a high demand for trained officers. As a result, Fort Riley was selected as the site for a Reserve Officer's camp. Twenty-five hundred men were trained at Fort Riley in 1917. Congress also appropriated funds to build a large training center at Fort Riley. Activities at the Mounted Service School practically ceased as construction began on the 14th National Army Cantonment. This temporary cantonment was named Camp Funston in honor of the late Brigadier General Frederick Funston. In the months before America's entry into the First World War, Fort Riley's population quadrupled.

²⁴ Robinson & Associates, *Fort Riley: An Historic Overview*, 13.

²⁵ Pride, *The History Of Fort Riley*, 195.

²⁶ Mariani & Associates Architects, *Study/Survey of Historically Significant Army Family Housing Quarters, V.I* (Installation Report, Fort Riley, Kansas, June, 1988), 18.

When Camp Funston was completed in December 1917, it was capable of housing and training 50,000 men. Consisting mainly of two-story wood buildings, the camp had complete waterworks, electrical, and refrigeration systems. Other facilities built simultaneously and associated with Camp Funston include a training camp for medical officers, a cavalry camp, a veterinary camp and remount depot, and an engineer camp. The post hospital was greatly expanded.²⁷ In total, there were 1,401 buildings erected in three months, with Camp Funston completed at a cost of \$10 million.²⁸

WWI was the first large-scale war for the United States. The regiment, the basic unit of the Army until this time, was too small for the needs of a war of that magnitude. Therefore the “division,” consisting of approximately 20,000 troops, was created and replaced the regiment as the basic unit of the Army. Four divisions in all were trained at Camp Funston during WWI.

The years between the two world wars were fairly quiet at Fort Riley. During these years, cavalry officers, officers from other arms and reserve components, and even officers from foreign countries, attended the Cavalry School for training in mounted tactics, equitation and instruction in the care of horses. During 1921, in keeping Fort Riley up with the latest developments in modern warfare, an airfield was opened on land across the Kansas River. When completed in 1923, the airfield was named Marshall Army Airfield after Colonel Francis G. Marshall, the Assistant Chief of Cavalry who had died in a plane crash two years earlier.²⁹ Initially, the primary responsibility of the fliers at Marshall Army Airfield was to provide demonstrations and participate in training exercises for the cavalry school.

A major building program began at the installation in the late 1920s. This construction was part of the Army's nationwide building program that began in 1927 as a response to inadequate and dilapidated WWI facilities.³⁰ The goal was to provide permanent buildings for a peacetime army. Construction under this building program continued nationwide until about

²⁷ Mariani & Associates, *Study/Survey of Historically Significant Army Family Housing Quarters*, 17.

²⁸ Schooley Caldwell Associates, *Installation Design Guide: Fort Riley*, 120–126.

²⁹ Joseph P. McGinley, “U.S. Army and Air Force Wings Over Kansas, Part Two” *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XXV, Autumn 1959, 3 3:342.

³⁰ U.S. War Department, *Annual Report of the Secretary of War*, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1926).

1940. A majority of the new buildings at Fort Riley were quarters for officers, relieving a housing shortage on post. Built between 1928 and 1939, these quarters were constructed of brick or limestone and built around the edges of the old cavalry and artillery areas and at Marshall Army Airfield. The installation also received a fire station, a theater, warehouses and equipment stores, garages, a new laundry facility, magazines, and water well and pump buildings.

Early in the 1930s, the Cavalry began to use motor vehicles with its units, blending the firepower of the Cavalry with the increased mobility of the motor vehicle. Gradually, the Cavalry developed an entirely mechanized force that was the forerunner of the Armored Force. Reorganization, retraining, and reequipping of the Cavalry for combat as separate units and as elements of Armored and Infantry divisions were necessary. To train officers and enlisted men for this purpose, an area directly west of the main post, called the Republican Flats, was chosen to be the site of the Cavalry Replacement Training Center. This area was later named Camp Forsyth, in honor of Major General James W. Forsyth. During the war, 150,000 horse and mechanized Cavalry troops were trained there.³¹ Construction of Camp Forsyth began in December 1940 and was completed in March of 1941. The hundreds of buildings constructed included 210 barracks, 50 mess halls, officer's quarters, warehouses, and administration and headquarters buildings. In addition, a theater, a service club, a swimming pool, indoor and outdoor boxing arenas, tennis courts, football fields, five dispensaries, a dental clinic, two chapels, and a guest house were also constructed.³²

Fort Riley experienced another massive growth in troop size as the likelihood of the United States entering World War II (WWII) grew more probable. To accommodate this increase in population, Camp Funston was rebuilt. Between November of 1940 and July of 1941, 890 temporary buildings, 77 miles of electric lines, 23 miles of roads, 3.4 miles of railroad, and two viaducts were constructed. Camp Whitside, located between the main post and Camp Funston, was expanded in 1940 and 1942 and was used as the cantonment's hospital.

³¹ *The Growth and Building History of Fort Riley. Anonymous manuscript on file (Topeka, KS: Kansas State Historical Society), n.d.*

³² Schooley Caldwell Associates, *Installation Design Guide: Fort Riley*, 120–128.

As the facilities at Fort Riley expanded during WWII, so too did its boundaries. In 1941 and 1942, farmland located directly north of the original reservation and west of the town of Ogden was acquired. Approximately 31,720 acres were added to the existing 19,446 acre reservation.³³ The area became a troop training ground and is now part of the artillery impact area.

2.1.3 Post-WWII and Early Cold War Period (1945-1963)

Immediately after the end of WWII, the War Department set about determining which installations to keep going, which to mothball, and which to close permanently. As part of this process, utilization studies were conducted for installations across the country during September 1945. The resulting report provided a snapshot of Fort Riley at the end of one era and the beginning of another. Containing 54,184 acres, the “old post” was noted as the home of the Cavalry School, and had always been primarily garrisoned by Cavalry troops.³⁴ At the prevailing space allocation of 80 square feet per man, the installation could provide housing for approximately 21,000 personnel.³⁵ The facilities on post ranged from mostly permanent structures on the Main Post to the mobilization buildings found at Camp Funston, Camp Forsyth, and Camp Whitside. Many facilities that had previously been used for housing, equipping, and training horses were put to new uses as motor vehicles had supplemented the use of animals for transportation and hauling. Approximately \$28,681,000 had been spent on land and construction at Fort Riley from 1940 through 1945.³⁶

Even though WWII was over, there was still a need to retain an Army on a much reduced scale. Recruit training continued to supply soldiers not only to U.S. installations, but also to supply the necessary forces for post-war operations in Europe and Japan. Post-war reorganization and swiftly changing manpower needs resulted in several organizations stationing and withdrawal from Fort Riley in a short amount of time. On January 20, 1946 it was announced that the Replacement Depot No. 3 at Camp Funston would be closed. The center had only been in operation for six

³³ Joseph P. McGinley, “U.S. Army and Air Force Wings Over Kansas, Part Two” *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XXV, Autumn 1959, 3:342.

³⁴ War Department, *Post War Utilization Studies: Fort Riley, Kansas*, (Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1945), 1.

³⁵ *ibid.*, 2.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

months but had processed and assigned 63,000 replacements to other units and installations.³⁷ On 1 November 1946 the Army General School succeeded the famed Cavalry School at Fort Riley.³⁸

The Korean War required a large troop buildup in the Army, with personnel called up by Selective Service and mobilization of National Guard and Army Reserves. Basic training was provided for soldiers on a replacement basis for casualties in Korea, and returning troops were provided with more specialized training. The outbreak of war in Korea affected Fort Riley in several ways. In addition to increasing the basic training capability, the Army also ramped up efforts to graduate students from various Army schools, including the Army General School's Officers Intelligence course, Enlisted Intelligence course, and Officer Candidate School.³⁹ By the time the Officer Candidate School closed in 1953, it had a record of over 5,000 graduates.⁴⁰

Personnel changes at Fort Riley began in February 1954, with the announcement that the 37th ID (Infantry Division) would relocate from Fort Polk, Louisiana, to Fort Riley. This move was part of an Army-wide redeployment plan to adjust to a 300,000 troop reduction in strength brought on by the end of the Korean War and large numbers of troops returning to the United States.⁴¹ By May, plans were for the 37th to be reorganized as the 10th ID, which itself would be reorganized from a training division to a Regular Army combat division on 15 June 1954. The troops began arriving 3 May by plane, train, and motor convoy.⁴²

The following year, Fort Riley was announced as one of the installations to test Operation Gyroscope, a new concept for troop rotation and replacement that moved entire battalions, regiments, or even divisions simultaneously. Stability and combat effectiveness were expected to increase due to the gyroscope units having a permanent home base in the United States,

³⁷ "Funston Depot Quits Jan. 20: Colonel Proctor Announces Termination of Replacement Depot," *Junction City Union*, 11 January 1946, 1.

³⁸ "Army General School Nears Its 64th Year at Fort Riley," *Junction City Union*, 24 February 1955, 4.

³⁹ "Army General School Is Growing Rapidly," *Junction City Union*, 10 October 1950, 1; "Army Will Enlarge Field Force Schools," *Junction City Union*, 16 March 1950, 1.

⁴⁰ "The Life of Riley," Vertical File, Center for Military History, Washington, DC (San Diego: Military Publishers, 1974).

⁴¹ "37th Infantry Division Likely to Get New Name," *Junction City Union*, 16 February 1954, n.p.

⁴² "Members of 37th Due to Arrive Tonight," *Junction City Union*, 4 March 1954, 1; "Expect 1,800 From the 37th," *Junction City Union*, 1; "37th Division To Be The 10th," *Junction City Union*, 1.

which they would return to after each 3-year rotation overseas.⁴³ The 10th ID was selected to rotate to Germany, and the 1st ID would take up permanent station at Fort Riley, marking the first time the fort would be a full division-strength post in peacetime.

The stationing of such a large number of soldiers and their dependents at Fort Riley necessitated a construction program that involved a large number of new troop housing facilities. The area known as Custer Hill was selected for this expansion, due to the large amount of available land on which to build and the fact that it provided higher ground. This last feature was important as two previous flood events had severely impacted housing on the Main Post. Construction began in 1955 on the first six new barracks. Over time, the site grew to include recreational, retail, administrative, training, religious, fitness, and other support facilities. Much of the development of Custer Hill as a new divisional area for the 1st ID occurred throughout the 1950s and the 1960s.⁴⁴

With the arrival of the Kennedy administration in early 1961, the military began to grow again. Heightened tensions between the United States and the Soviet Bloc had led to a need for increased strength, and more efficient troop mobilization and management to assure preparedness for any eventuality with the ability to provide a flexible response. The 1961 troop build-up to counteract the Soviet aggression in Berlin persisted after the crisis passed. During that year, Army strength went from 860,000 to 1,060,000, and settled the next year at a permanent strength of 970,000.⁴⁵ More than 1,000 of the recruits that came to Fort Riley at the end of 1960 and beginning of 1961 were ultimately sent to South Korea by May 1961. Their training consisted of the standard eight-week basic training and then on to training specifically for either heavy weapons specialists or to a rifle platoon. This training began to incorporate new infantry weapons: the M-14 rifle and the M-60 machine gun.⁴⁶

⁴³ David A. Lane, Robert Gumerove, and Elizabeth W. Hotlitzworth, *Operation Gyroscope in the United States Army, Europe* (Headquarters, United States Army, Europe, Historical Division, 1957), 1:2–3.

⁴⁴ “Ask \$7,413,000 for Fort Riley Housing,” *Junction City Union*, 7 April 1954, 1; “Building Funds For Fort Riley Reduced in Senate,” *Junction City Union*, 7 July 1954, 1.

⁴⁵ Walter G. Hermes, “Global Pressures and the Flexible Response,” Chapter 27 in *American Military History* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 1989), 606.

⁴⁶ “Army Stresses New Weapons Concept in 60,” *Fort Riley Post*, 6 January 1961, 13.

As the 1st ID shifted to a combat-ready division, the numbers of enlisted recruits diminished, and an increase was seen in the number of older, married soldiers. As a result, three large Capehart housing projects were constructed on Custer Hill between 1961 and 1963. Capehart housing utilized private firms for construction capital, with the soldier inhabitants receiving stipends to use for rent to repay the builders. The construction of the 867-family units took place in three phases over 24 months and in three complexes: Monteith Heights officer housing, Peterson Heights Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) housing, and Warner Heights NCO housing.⁴⁷

Besides housing, little other construction occurred during this time. Some buildings were rehabilitated or converted to other uses, particularly the remaining WWII station hospital facilities at Camp Whitside. The recreation opportunities afforded to troops in the early 1960s had expanded by several new additions: NCO club, bowling alleys, a driving range, and several lakes.

2.2 The Vietnam Conflict: 1962–1975⁴⁸

The Vietnam War was a complicated geopolitical event, the entire scope of which cannot be covered in this report. This section outlines elements of the war as a way to contextualize the need to build ground combat training facilities in the United States. In Vietnam, the Army and Marine Corps conducted most of the ground combat. Consequently, ground combat training facilities were primarily constructed at Army installations and, to a lesser extent, at Marine Corps bases.

Although the United States had been financially and militarily involved in Vietnam since the early 1950s, it wasn't until early 1962 that the United States announced a formal program of economic and social aid to South Vietnam—simultaneous with an increase in military support. The National Liberation Front was a communist insurgency established in 1960 by the Communist Party of Vietnam seeking to “liberate” South Vietnam. The

⁴⁷ “Ground Breaking Marks Start of Housing Project in Custer Hill Area,” *Fort Riley Post*, 7 April 1961, 1; “Areas Are Named for Men of 1st,” *Fort Riley Post*, 5 April 1963, 1.

⁴⁸ This section taken from Ellen R. Hartman, Megan W. Tooker, Adam D. Smith, and Susan I. Enscoe, *Vietnam and the Home Front: Ground Combat Training 1962–1975*, ERDC/CERL TR-17-1 (Champaign, IL: ERDC/CERL with the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program, December 2017), 7–14, 43–48.

military branch of the organization was known as the Viet Cong, short for Vietnamese Communists, and recruited, trained, and utilized their guerilla fighters in South Vietnam.⁴⁹ The primary mission of the U.S. military in Vietnam was to train the South Vietnamese government's soldiers and protect villages but gradually, U.S. troops found themselves involved in border surveillance, control measures, and guerilla incursions to stop the Viet Cong advance. The military personnel stationed in South Vietnam were products of the geopolitical lull after WWII. Although military technological advances were ensuring the United States was a global superpower, the troops deployed to South Vietnam were trained according to standards established for WWII combat—a situation that assumed enemies would be engaged at moderately close range on terrain that was relatively flat, providing mostly unobstructed sight lines.

In February 1962, U.S. military strength in South Vietnam hovered around 4,000 personnel, the command of which was reorganized under the leadership of General Paul D. Harkins and formally named the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). In support of those changes, then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy assured the public that U.S. troops would remain in Vietnam until the Viet Cong were defeated.⁵⁰ Military planners wasted no time in underscoring Kennedy's promise and within two months, U.S. military strength in South Vietnam had climbed to 5,400 personnel. Throughout the rest of 1962, optimism pervaded the dialog coming from South Vietnam with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara conducting an inspection tour and declaring that U.S. aid would level off and that military forces would most likely not be increased. Months later, McNamara reiterated that U.S. military aid was paying off, along with the training that U.S. forces were providing to the South Vietnamese government's military. Even with the positive news, the year ended with nearly a doubling of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam, with the total eventually reaching 11,300 by December 1962.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Robert K. Brigham, "Battlefield Vietnam: A Brief History," <http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/history/index.html>.

⁵⁰ Lawrence M. Connell, *Vietnam Chronology 1940–1973*, Vol. 67 (Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, Office of Public Affairs History Staff, November 1974), 29.

⁵¹ Connell, *Vietnam Chronology 1940–1973*, Vol. 67, 33.

President John F. Kennedy supported the U.S. commitment in South Vietnam, but was reluctant to engage in a full-scale war. Throughout 1962 and 1963, the South Vietnamese government was spinning out of control. The Prime Minister, Ngo Dinh Diem, was refusing to cooperate with American demands for open elections and had lost the support of the South Vietnamese. Realizing the government's instability would impede U.S. military operations, Kennedy approved a plan to have the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) overthrow Diem's South Vietnamese government. The presidentially authorized overthrow of Diem coincided with an actual coup which left Diem and his brother dead. The unfortunate result of the overthrow was increased chaos and instability throughout the South Vietnamese government, with five separate administrations being established and disbanded between November 1963 and June 1965. Unsurprisingly, the Viet Cong capitalized on the disorganization during that time, seeing it as an opportunity to overthrow the South Vietnamese government, as well as an opportunity to attract substantial support in South Vietnam with troops and supplies.

2.2.1 President Johnson's escalation, 1963–1969

After President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, the former vice-president, now President Lyndon B. Johnson hesitated to expand U.S. involvement in Vietnam. In April 1963, U.S. military personnel in Vietnam numbered 12,000.⁵² By late 1963, the United States had been economically and militarily involved in Vietnam fighting the Viet Cong and Viet Minh (a coalition originally fighting the French occupation, later fighting for a united Vietnam), creating a situation that President Johnson was reluctant to abandon. Fearing a loss against the perceived Communist aggression, President Johnson gradually directed more military aid to South Vietnam. By December 1964, military personnel in Vietnam numbered 23,300, and President Johnson's fear of appearing weak was entwined with his efforts to halt the spread of Communism.⁵³

Military leadership responded to increased commitment to the conflict in Vietnam by expanding personnel strength while developing equipment and technology to meet the demands of fighting a ground war in Southeast

⁵² Connell, *Vietnam Chronology 1940-1973*, 34.

⁵³ *ibid.*, 50.

Asia. Then, on 2 August 1964, three North Vietnamese patrol boats opened fired on the U.S. destroyer USS *Maddox* in the Gulf of Tonkin. The resulting conflict became known as the “Gulf of Tonkin Incident” and served as a turning point for U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Although aspects of the event are debated as to whether they happened, President Johnson used the attack as justification for escalation. Retaliatory air strikes were ordered by the president to destroy North Vietnamese military bases and critical infrastructure. The air strikes proved effective and five days later, the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. The resolution afforded President Johnson broad authority and “all necessary measures” to defend the United States and allied forces from further North Vietnamese attacks.⁵⁴ The conflict in Vietnam became a priority for President Johnson after his reelection in November 1964.

President Johnson and his advisors initiated a forceful military response by removing all restrictions on U.S. military actions. Now, the United States could actively engage in combat with the North Vietnamese without the limitations of merely training or advising the South Vietnamese military. In the spring of 1965, President Johnson redoubled the number of personnel in Vietnam, with the totals jumping from 27,000 in March to 46,500 in May. During that influx, the first combat troops from the Army and Marine Corps were deployed to Saigon and Da Nang. Throughout the summer of 1965, the U.S. military presence grew rapidly and by August, the United States launched its first major ground offensive, shifting the U.S. military strategy from defensive. On 14 October of that year, the DoD called for a military draft of 45,224 men by December, the largest call since the Korean War.⁵⁵ The U.S. Marine Corps worked with the South Vietnamese Army in an airmobile and amphibious assault on the Viet Cong near Chu Lai. By the end of 1965, there were 175,000 U.S. military personnel in Vietnam, which included major U.S. Army divisions and units such as the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and the 1st Infantry Division, along with the U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Force. Large deployments continued throughout the late 1960s, ultimately increasing troop numbers to over 500,000.

President Johnson and his military advisors, including U.S. Army General William C. Westmoreland, developed a new operational plan for Vietnam.

⁵⁴ “Gulf of Tonkin Resolution,” Public Law 88-408 (Washington, DC: 88th U.S. Congress, August 7, 1964).

⁵⁵ Connell, *Vietnam Chronology 1940-1973*, 59.

The plan was a departure from the previously held idea that the government of South Vietnam should be responsible for winning the war against the guerrillas. General Westmoreland was so confident that the U.S. military could defeat the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong, he predicted a victory by the end of 1967. More troops were needed to meet the ever-growing ranks of the NVA and Viet Cong, locking the United States into a cycle of escalation. To meet personnel requirements, American soldiers deployed to Vietnam on one-year tours of duty. The high refresh rates meant that units were deprived of experienced leaders. As one observer noted, “We were not in Vietnam for 10 years, but for one year 10 times.”⁵⁶ The result was shortened training programs.

The United States was now committed to defeating the North Vietnamese through direct combat. Consequently, U.S. military aircraft flew almost 300,000 sorties, while ground forces conducted more than 550 battalion-size or larger operations and participated in more than 160 joint operations with allies. In particular, Marine units were conducting several hundred small unit actions during each 24-hour period to find and isolate the Viet Cong. By the end of 1967, there were nearly 490,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam including more than 260,000 Marines.

2.2.2 Khe Sanh and the Tet Offensive

In late 1967 and early 1968, the United States engaged in two major battles—Khe Sanh and the Tet Offensive. The battle at Khe Sanh occurred at the Khe Sanh Combat Base, a garrison of 6,000 Marines and South Vietnamese Rangers. By early 1968, the base was completely cut off by the NVA and Viet Cong, and was under constant attack for over five months. Thousands died until an overland campaign to rescue the Marine base eventually broke through the NVA in March 1968, supported by aerial bombing by the U.S. Air Force that dropped over a 100,000 tons of bombs. The Tet Offensive consisted of simultaneous attacks on South Vietnamese cities and military installations by the NVA and Viet Cong in late January 1968. After heavy fighting, the U.S. and allied forces regained control of many sites. The Tet Offensive would be the largest battle of the war, with both battles polarizing a moment when the American public’s perception

⁵⁶ David T. Courtwright, *Sky as Frontier: Adventure, Aviation, and Empire* (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2005).

of the war shifted from support to opposition. Meanwhile, President Johnson and his advisors continued authorizing increases in troop levels and providing equipment and training to the South Vietnamese military while the war raged on.

2.2.3 Vietnamization, 1969–1972

In 1968, President Johnson decided not to run for reelection, allowing the next president to take charge of the rapidly failing situation in Vietnam. After the election, in 1969, President Richard Nixon developed and announced his new plan for the conflict in Southeast Asia, calling it “Vietnamization.” The plan consisted of a rapid drawdown of U.S. involvement while simultaneously strengthening the South Vietnamese defense capabilities through training and equipment. After the first year of Vietnamization, in-country U.S. troop levels had been cut nearly in half—down to 250,000 from 543,482. By the end of 1972, there were only 24,000 U.S. soldiers in Vietnam. Although troop levels were decreasing overall, Vietnamization increased hostilities in Vietnam and a widening of the war. Secret bombings runs over Cambodia and Laos were approved as well as ground incursions in both countries.

In January 1973, the United States and North Vietnam agreed to a ceasefire. The remaining U.S. personnel rapidly departed the country and by March, the last U.S. combat soldiers had left. Although the withdrawal of U.S. troops resulted in greater instability, in June 1973, the U.S. Senate passed the Case-Church amendment, prohibiting further involvement in Vietnam.⁵⁷ Although U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia was greatly decreased, it took another two years for a complete exit of all personnel. Saigon was on the verge of collapsing in April 1975 after the NVA and Viet Cong had launched an offensive. The United States implemented an evacuation plan on 29 and 30 April, transporting over 1,300 Americans and nearly 6,000 South Vietnamese and other foreigners from the country.⁵⁸

2.2.4 Ground combat training for Vietnam

Ground warfare is also known as land warfare, and it engages large numbers of combat personnel and weapons systems to defend urban and rural

⁵⁷ “Case-Church Amendment,” Public Law 93-52 (Washington, DC: 93rd U.S. Congress, June 1973).

⁵⁸ The South Vietnamese were largely personnel who had worked with the U.S. military or had made their way into the U.S. Embassy compound as the evacuation was occurring.

interests. Land-based warfare is the dominant form of nearly all U.S. military campaigns, and all troops are trained in the fundamentals of ground combat standards during their basic training. Training for ground warfare encompasses the types of weapons being used in the type of terrain that soldiers will encounter. Realistic training prepares ground combat troops by introducing them to the sights and sounds of battle while reducing uncertainties.⁵⁹ In this regard, the ground combat training that prepared soldiers for fighting in Vietnam used, or adapted, existing techniques and facilities to expedite the flow of personnel into the conflict. Ground combat training sites included small arms ranges, hand-to-hand combat areas, obstacle courses, bayonet training, training villages, mock sites, infiltration courses, and large-scale operation areas.

Basic training for recruits in all branches of the military during this period introduced all personnel to the fundamentals of ground combat and included physical conditioning, firing small arms, hand-to-hand fighting, grenade launching, and obstacle course navigation. Army troops that went into infantry, artillery, and armor divisions received more training on weapons types, guerrilla warfare, ambushes, and other tactics and methods the Viet Cong employed against U.S. soldiers.

The Viet Cong specialized in booby traps and deployed them across the country. Booby traps had many forms, and U.S. forces were trained to identify signs that booby traps had been constructed in an area. Booby traps could entail grenades, spike traps, poison arrows, trip wires, and maces.⁶⁰ The Viet Cong (VC) also evaded capture by hiding and blending in with the local populace. Hiding underground was most effective, and the VC developed a tunnel system that spanned thousands of miles. All aboveground elements of the tunnel systems were carefully concealed.

Training methods were continually being modified to address the conditions of battle in theater. Training was mostly reactionary and based on returning personnel's input as to what was critically needed at the time. To accommodate the dramatic influx of troops being trained, the military branches reduced basic and specialized training times rather than building

⁵⁹ Dan Archibald, Adam Smith, Sunny Adams, and Manroop Chawla, *Military Training Lands Historic Context: Training Village, Mock Sites, and Large Scale Operations Areas*. ERDC/CERL TR-10-10 (Champaign, IL: U.S. Army Engineer and Research Development Center, March 2010), 5.

⁶⁰ MACV, *Handbook for U.S. Forces in Vietnam*, (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1968), 29.

more training facilities to meet demand. Troops also received additional training once they arrived in Vietnam.

In the early 1960s, Army basic training was still modeled on WWII-era requirements. Basic training consisted mainly of physical exercises and weapons instruction that lasted for eight weeks. Basic training was followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT), where Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) duties were assigned. The length of AIT varied depending on the MOS, and individual installations were associated with training different specialties. At the peak of the Vietnam War in 1968, the Army converted all infantry AIT to Vietnam-oriented training, adding an additional week to prepare the trainees for the specific geographic and combat conditions of Vietnam.⁶¹

Most infantry AIT centers were adapted to reflect the ground conditions of Vietnam. To increase the realism of infantry training, installations built village replicas to introduce soldiers to Southeast Asian infrastructure as well as to illustrate how guerilla fighters used elements of a village to gain an advantage over U.S. troops. Training scenarios would include soldiers dressed up as villagers and as VC soldiers that the trainees would have to fight. A site's topography and vegetation were enhanced to limit visibility and illustrate how the enemy could hide in close proximity. The villages featured typical arrangements of buildings found in Vietnam and included housing, communal buildings, and shrines. Layered throughout the villages were booby traps, tunnel systems, and punji stakes. In addition to mock villages, some training sites featured prisoner of war (POW) camps, which were similar in layout and construction to the villages but were used to train soldiers in what to expect if taken prisoner.

2.3 Fort Riley missions and major units during the Vietnam Era

From 1964 to 1974, the primary unit stationed at Fort Riley changed multiple times as units trained, deployed, and were replaced. From maintaining a combat-ready stance to making soldiers of raw recruits, the primary mission was one of training, and for the majority of the period under study, the training was concentrated on recruit Basic Combat Training (BCT) and

⁶¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense), 174.

AIT to learn military occupational specialties useful for duty in Southeast Asia.

2.3.1 1st Infantry Division—combat-ready division

In 1964, the primary military element at Fort Riley was the 1st ID, which was headquartered at the fort and had been stationed there since 1955 as a training division. As a result of the DoD-wide military alerts caused by the Berlin Wall construction and the Cuban Missile Crisis, the 1st ID moved from being a training division to a focus on advanced unit combat training.⁶² By 1964, the division had solidified behind a mission of combat readiness for defense of U.S. interests overseas and to support NATO. As part of their readiness training, the division took part in multiple large operations and exercises at posts in the United States and overseas.⁶³

As combat heated up in Vietnam with the escalation of the war, the 1st ID's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry deployed to Vietnam in July 1965, becoming the first infantry division element in-country. The rest of the division followed, and the division was operational by 1 November 1965. They were in combat eleven days later.⁶⁴ The 1st ID would continue combat operations in Vietnam until 1970 (Figure 2).

⁶² "History," Society of the First Infantry Division, <http://1stid.org/historyindex.php>.

⁶³ "Have Division, Will Travel," *Fort Riley Post*, 17 August 1962, 16.

⁶⁴ "History," Society of the First Infantry Division, <http://1stid.org/historyindex.php>

Figure 2. Reconnaissance platoon, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division on patrol in Loc Ninh rubber plantation, Vietnam, 19 March 1968 (National Archives and Records Administration [NARA] III-CCS-CC47453).



2.3.2 9th Infantry Division—recruit training for Army troop expansion

After the departure of the 1st ID, escalating Army manpower demands led to Fort Riley becoming a recruit training installation. While not as large as the 12 formally designated Basic Combat Training Centers that had a constant training load of 10,000 men, Fort Riley trained a considerable number of recruits for deployment to Vietnam.⁶⁵ To operate the training program, a provisional BCT brigade was organized in late 1965. The 9th ID was reactivated on 1 February 1966 and stationed at Fort Riley. Major General George S. Eckhardt had duty as the Commanding General of both the 9th ID and of Fort Riley.⁶⁶ The 9th ID ran the recruit training program until they were also deployed to Vietnam later in 1966.

⁶⁵ "Army Opens New Training Centers," *Fort Riley Post*, 22 April 1966, page unknown.

⁶⁶ "Organizational Changes Take Place Tomorrow," *Fort Riley Post*, 24 June 1966, 17.

2.3.3 24th Infantry Division—training and station keeping

The 24th ID was stationed in West Germany when it was ordered to relocate to Fort Riley in late 1967, and the movement was completed by July 1968. Two brigades of the 24th ID were stationed at Fort Riley, and one remained in West Germany. Training continued at the post, with BCT and AIT the primary programs, but instead of training units for deployment to Vietnam, the training now focused on individual replacement troops. The 24th ID also remained combat ready, through exercises and brief deployments to West Germany.⁶⁷ The 24th ID was inactivated at Fort Riley when the 1st ID returned in April 1970.⁶⁸

2.3.4 1st Infantry Division—battle-hardened division returns

When the 1st ID returned to Fort Riley in April 1970, it was reorganized as the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), and was also dual-based—2 brigades at Fort Riley and its 3rd Brigade in West Germany.⁶⁹ The division remained at combat-ready status to support U.S. Armed Forces needs and fulfill military commitments to NATO-member nations. Training was enhanced through participation in training exercises, such as the continuing series of annual Army unit deployments to West Germany, known as REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany). These exercises were focused on preparations to defend Western Europe, with NATO-allied nations.⁷⁰ Shortly after its return to Fort Riley, the 1st ID took part in REFORGER II in October 1970, with over 11,000 troops moved from Kansas to West Germany. The troops made the return journey to Fort Riley by the end of November.⁷¹ The 1st ID would continue to participate in REFORGER exercises throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

2.3.5 The modern volunteer army takes shape

President Nixon had informed Congress in April 1970 that “From now on, the objective of this Administration is to reduce draft calls to zero, subject

⁶⁷ “First Division Will Be Mechanized After Reorganization at Fort Riley,” *Fort Riley Post*, 3 April 1970, 14.

⁶⁸ “24th Infantry,” <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/24id.htm>

⁶⁹ “Fort Riley History,” <http://www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/History/>

⁷⁰ “Fort Riley History,” <http://www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/History/>

⁷¹ “Big Red One Troop Movement Completed,” *Fort Riley Post*, 16 October 1970, 1-2; “Big Red One: Coming Home,” *Fort Riley Post*, 30 October 1970, page unknown.

to the overriding considerations of national security.”⁷² As draft calls were reduced, so was troop strength in Vietnam, with the troop ceiling halved between 1968 and early 1971.⁷³ Reductions were also taking place at installations in the United States as the war began to draw to a close. At Fort Riley, approximately 3,400 draftees in the 1st ID (Mechanized) received early releases from Army service between 1 September 1971 and 29 February 1972.⁷⁴

Despite the war continuing, draft calls were reduced until in June 1973, they were completely eliminated, signaling the beginning of the Modern Volunteer Force (MVF), also known as the All-Volunteer Force (AVF). Although politically beneficial to the president, the AVF presented several challenges for America’s military, the most serious of which was filling manpower quotas. The social revolution of the 1960s fostered an anti-establishment and anti-military mentality among the majority of America’s youth, which meant that in the absence of a draft, eligible men were slow to volunteer for the service. The need for improving retention rates led to improvements in the quality of a soldier’s life in the Army, making “changes that clearly eliminate unnecessary, irritating and unreasonable demands on the time and effort of our soldiers, clearly contribute to better understanding and motivation, and clearly focus on increasing the challenge and rewards of true professionalism.”⁷⁵ A significant part of the changes instituted for the MVA were renovations to existing barracks and new barracks designs, in an effort to provide more privacy for the unaccompanied troops. From 1972 through 1976, the Army “rehabilitated or built more than 200,000 barracks spaces in the largest unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing program since the 1920s,” which not coincidentally was the last time America had an AVF.⁷⁶ These projects included such things as installing “quick fix” privacy partitions in sleeping quarters, modernizing barracks to include better traffic flow conditions, installing

⁷² *Public Papers of Presidents of the United States, Richard Nixon, 1970* (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1971), 394–99.

⁷³ “Strength and Willingness to Negotiate: Secty. Laird,” *Fort Riley Post*, 30 October 1970, 1.

⁷⁴ “3,500 Draftees at Ft. Riley to Get Early Release,” *Fort Riley Post*, 20 Aug 1971, 1.

⁷⁵ “Army Moves to Improve Duty; Start of Modern Volunteer Force,” *Fort Riley Post*, 22 June 1971, 3.

⁷⁶ William C. Baldwin, “A History of Army Peacetime Housing to the End of the Cold War,” *Occasional Papers* 4, Society for History in the Federal Government, 2004, 18.

air-conditioning units and new lighting, and improving/upgrading recreational areas.⁷⁷

In 1971, Fort Riley was selected as a Volunteer Army (VOLAR) test installation, with funding for one year to test various programs designed to provide soldiers with an improved life style, improved professionalism, and enhanced public esteem. Fort Riley was one of 12 test installations selected in July 1971. Test programs included streamlining procedures, enhancing career training and hiring civilians for kitchen “police” (KP) duty and for janitorial work in common-use buildings, to free soldiers from these types of tasks.⁷⁸ At Fort Riley, most of the existing permanent barracks were upgraded as part of the MVA improvements, including “to install air conditioners in all day rooms, telephones on each floor, and provide a desk, rug, lamp, and chair for every four soldiers.”⁷⁹ Rules about decorating the living quarters were also relaxed, allowing troops to paint walls or put up posters and to decorate cubicle dividers.⁸⁰

2.4 Training at Fort Riley

During the period under study, manpower needs for the escalation of the war in Vietnam placed increasing demands on the induction and training of recruits. In 1966, this became a priority mission at Fort Riley, with the organization of the 9th ID as a training unit and the arrival of the first group of recruits in late 1965. The initial recruits were received by the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry and housed in the Camp Forsyth area. Fort Riley recruit training included basic and AIT, and basic and advanced unit training. The need for recruit training was increasing so rapidly that the first groups of graduates were retained as manpower for the Division.⁸¹

2.4.1 Basic Combat Training

In September 1963, the Army initiated an improvement program for recruit training, with the goal of providing quality training in all courses to

⁷⁷ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “Suggested text for the Military Construction Area: Military Construction, 1974-75,” Box XV-1, Military: Domestic Military Construction 1945; Folder: Construction—Articles & Memos, Updates, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers History Office Archives, Alexandria, VA.

⁷⁸ “Fort Riley Becomes VOLAR Test Installation,” *Fort Riley Post*, 16 July 1971.

⁷⁹ *ibid.*

⁸⁰ “USAG Barracks Go MVA,” *Fort Riley Post*, 19 March 1971, 14; “Where Have The Barracks Gone?” *Fort Riley Post*, 26 Mar 1971, 1.

⁸¹ “Home Made For New Recruits,” *Fort Riley Post*, 8 April 1966, 12.

maintain overall combat readiness in the Army, in concert with the U.S. Continental Army Command (CONARC) developing a plan to standardize the organization of training centers. Officers who conducted training were sent to an orientation course that taught them the new concepts and procedures of the standardized organization. Additionally, drill sergeant schools were established at training centers to reinforce standard training practices across all centers.⁸²

The new training program was designed with increases in hours of physical training, drill, ceremony, marches and bivouac, weapons, and field training. These additional training hours were to improve the physical conditioning and basic skills of soldiers. At the end of the training cycle all recruits were given a proficiency test. If a trainee failed the test they were retrained and not promoted to AIT. Another component of the program was providing incentives and recognition for recruits and trainers in an effort to emphasize the importance of military service. The incentives also made possible opportunities for accelerated advancement for highly capable trainees and officer assignments were given priority.⁸³

Fort Riley was selected as a site for BCT. As a result the Provisional Basic Training Brigade was activated there in early November 1965 with the first trainees arriving a month later, in early December. The training unit consisted of three battalions of four companies each. The Brigade was located in the Custer Hill Troop Housing area.⁸⁴

By late 1965, preparation of basic training infrastructure was underway at Fort Riley. The training facilities were located across the post and on the ranges; training areas were rehabilitated or new construction was initiated. An obstacle course was prepared in a wooded area at Fort Riley, and it consisted of a circuit of 15 obstacles. Trainees were tasked with completing the course in the fastest time possible while carrying pack and weapon. The obstacles included a rope climb, a rope ladder, three adjacent walls to overcome, and a “tunnel” covered in barbed wire (Figure 3).⁸⁵

⁸² “Basic Trainees to Get Improved Instruction,” *Fort Riley Post*, 28 August 1964, 7.

⁸³ *ibid.*

⁸⁴ “Basic Training To Be Given at Post,” *Fort Riley Post*, 5 November 1965, 1.

⁸⁵ “What Took You So Long, Soldier?,” *Fort Riley Post*, 6 January 1967, 6.

Figure 3. Private Laurel W. Crippen, Company D, 1st Training Battalion at Fort Riley, crawls through the barbed wire tunnel during his company's visit to the obstacle course at Fort Riley, 1967 (*Fort Riley Post*, 6 January 1967).



Most training was concentrated in open areas at Custer Hill and included a bayonet course, infiltration course, and the physical proficiency test area. The areas were designed to provide realistic training situations. For example, the infiltration course trainees had to crawl under barbed wire while machine guns with live ammunition were fired over their heads and explosives were detonated in sand-bagged holes to simulate battlefield conditions. Facilities were planned to accommodate the requirements of the eight-week basic training program as well as AIT.⁸⁶

As part of the preparations for the establishment of basic training, Fort Riley sent 39 noncommissioned officers and one specialist to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to attend a six-week course at the Drill Sergeants School. Drill sergeants needed to be proficient in the basic training fundamentals that included hand to hand combat, grenade throwing, bayonet training, infiltration, rifle marksmanship, combat firing for day and night, combat formations, field sanitation, effective military instruction, and first aid.⁸⁷

As the Fort Riley personnel were acquainted with the basic training subjects, committees were formed to ensure all the necessary subjects were covered and appropriate courses were in place.⁸⁸ There were five subject branches in the General Subjects Committee: First Aid, Individual Tactics, Individual Protection Measures, Hand-to-hand combat, and Academic Subjects. The Range Marksmanship Committee consisted of Mechanical

⁸⁶ "Getting Ready for Basic Training," *Fort Riley Post*, 5 November 1965, page unknown.

⁸⁷ "40 Attend Drill Sergeants School," *Fort Riley Post*, 12 November 1965, 1.

⁸⁸ "Committees for Basic Training Established," *Fort Riley Post*, 19 November 1965, 1.

Training Branch, 25-Meter Range Branch, Field Firing Branch, and the Record Firing Branch.⁸⁹

The eight-week cycle of training consisted of 352 hours of instruction.⁹⁰ The training was designed to be rugged and to test the mental and physical limits of the recruits. The results were soldiers who were disciplined and highly motivated with proficiencies in all fundamental aspects of combat. Basic training was practical and recruits learned skills through action, rather than entirely through classroom instruction. Trainees were also taught the history and traditions of the Army. Training advanced toward proficiency in individual actions under combat conditions and included tactics, hygiene, self-defense, physical training, and instruction in weaponry (Figure 4 and Figure 5). Upon satisfactorily passing the mental and physical requirements of BCT, recruits continued to AIT.⁹¹

Figure 4. Men of the 5th Bn, 60th Inf, 9th Inf Div, crossing the Republican River in a training exercise, 1966 (NARA III-CCS-CC36594).



⁸⁹ *ibid.*, 1-2.

⁹⁰ *ibid.*

⁹¹ "Basic's Receive Rugged Training," *Fort Riley Post*, 19 November 1965, unknown page.

Figure 5. Grenade training aid, Fort Riley, 1967 (NARA III-CCS-CC39516).



On 22 November 1965, Major Robert W. Milburn took command of the 3rd Battalion of the Fort Riley Combat Training Brigade (Provisional).⁹² The first basic combat trainees arrived from California on 2 December and were welcomed by Major General George S. Eckhardt, Commanding General of Fort Riley. The *Fort Riley Post* printed a detailed list of subjects covered during each of the eight weeks of training, given below:⁹³

⁹² "Milburn Named CO of 3rd Basic Training Battalion," *Fort Riley Post*, 26 November 1965, 1.

⁹³ "Basic Trainees Arrive at Post," *Fort Riley Post*, 3 December 1965, 1; "General Eckhardt Addresses New Basic Trainees," *Fort Riley Post*, 3 December 1965, 1; "Training and Facilities At Custer Hill," *Fort Riley Post*, 3 December 1965, 3.

- Week 1: Achievements and Traditions of the Army, Military Courtesy, Character Guidance, Military Justice, Command Information, Drill, Sanitation, Guard Duty, Inspection And Training Evaluation, Physical Training, Marches And Bivouac, Trainfire (Rifle Marksmanship Course), Commander's Time, Climatic Training, Commanding General Commanding Officer Orientation, Airborne recruiting, AR 381-12, Fire Prevention Safety, and Immunization
- Week 2: Character Guidance, Code of Conduct and Geneva Convention, Military Justice, Drill, Sanitation, First Aid, Guard Duty, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Physical Training, Marches and Bivouac, Bayonet, Hand-to-hand Combat, Commander's Time
- Week 3: Drill, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Physical Training, Infiltration Course, Marches and Bivouac, Bayonet Hand-to-hand Combat, Commander's Time, Immunizations
- Week 4: Individual Protective Measure, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Physical Training, Close Combat, Individual Tactical Training, Marches and Bivouac, Grenades, Hand-to-hand Combat, Commander's Time
- Week 5: Drill, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Intelligence, Physical Training Marches and Bivouac, Trainfire, Bayonet
- Week 6: Character Guidance, Drill, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Physical Training, Counterinsurgency, Marches and Bivouac, Trainfire, Bayonet
- Week 7: Drill, Inspection and Training Evaluations, Physical Training, Individual Tactical Training, Combat, Trainfire, Night Vision, Bayonet, Commander's Time, Leadership Rating
- Week 8: Drill, Physical Training, Proficiency Test, Commander's Time, Quartermaster Clothing Issue, Beltline, Out Processing

The first group of trainees was approximately 750 new soldiers who arrived on 2 December 1965 and began their first week of training on Monday, December 6, in the Custer Hill Theater Number 5, where Major Grant O. Mosher introduced the subjects of "Achievements and Traditions of the U.S. Army, Military Justice, Military Courtesy and Character Guidance."⁹⁴ The following day, trainees received instruction in "Trainfire, Drill, Field Sanitation, Command Information, and Physical Training."⁹⁵ During the

⁹⁴ "Training on Post In Full Swing," *Fort Riley Post*, 10 December 1965, 1.

⁹⁵ *ibid.*

first week of training, the companies also learned marching, bivouac, and living in the field, with long walks and overnight camping coming later in the training cycle. More trainees were expected on 13 December.⁹⁶

The new mission of BCT continued at Fort Riley into 1966. After five consecutive weeks of training, the Brigade had grown to include 2,100 trainees and included the 1st Battalion in its fifth week of training, the 2nd Battalion in its fourth week, and the 3rd Battalion in its second week of training.⁹⁷ Three weeks later, the first group of more than 700 trainees was ready to graduate. They were assigned to the 9th ID at Fort Riley.⁹⁸

The 2nd Battalion graduated on Friday, 11 February, and were also assigned to the 9th ID at Fort Riley. In its final week of training, the 2nd Battalion had “two hours of dismounted drill, two hours of physical training, a four hour review of training and conducted a four hour combat proficiency test to insure proper training prior to graduation. The battalion also had weapons cleaning, individual clothing exchange, immunizations check, and maintenance of buildings.”⁹⁹ There was also a lecture on customs of the Vietnamese and a lecture on defensive driving. Recruits also had to complete the Combat Proficiency Test prior to graduation.

The Combat Proficiency Test was given to all outgoing trainees. The test was composed of various stations and activities, and took four hours to complete. Military courtesy, other general subjects, military justice, and code of conduct were tested through a multiple choice written test. The remaining stations tested the application of knowledge through action. Recruits who successfully passed the test moved on to AIT.¹⁰⁰

By March 1966, Fort Riley received another group of 900 basic trainees and then, another 900-man group arrived the first week of April. Both groups were trained under the same standardized basic training cycle.¹⁰¹ The 9th ID basic training also included an eight-hour block of emergency

⁹⁶ “Training on Post In Full Swing,” *Fort Riley Post*, 10 December 1965, 1–2.

⁹⁷ “Training Still Going Strong,” *Fort Riley Post*, 14 January 1966, 6.

⁹⁸ “First Trainees To Graduate Today,” *Fort Riley Post*, 4 February 1966, page unknown.

⁹⁹ “2nd Battalion Graduated This Morning,” *Fort Riley Post*, 11 February 1966, 1.

¹⁰⁰ “Combat Proficiency Test Marks End of Basic,” *Fort Riley Post*, 11 February 1966, page unknown.

¹⁰¹ “Ninth Division To Conduct Basic Combat Training,” *Fort Riley Post*, 11 March 1966, 1.

medical treatment instruction taught by members of the 9th Medical Battalion.¹⁰²

A processing center was established at Camp Forsyth to receive the new recruits arriving from all over the country. These recruits went through the standard basic training cycle as well as an eight-week AIT at Fort Riley. The 9th Division trained its own “cooks and bakers, communications personnel, vehicle mechanics and drivers, heavy weapons crews, and individual riflemen.”¹⁰³

By May more recruits arrived at Fort Riley for BCT. Again, the group consisted of 900 recruits, this time arriving by plane from Fort Dix, New Jersey. The standardized basic training cycle for this group began on 9 May.¹⁰⁴ In June, the first basic trainees of the 9th ID at Fort Riley graduated from the program. About 900 recruits graduated with 600 advancing to AIT. The graduation review took place at the Camp Forsyth Parade Ground.¹⁰⁵

The 9th ID basic training included an eight-hour block of emergency medical treatment instruction taught by members of the 9th Medical Battalion.¹⁰⁶

A year after basic training was initiated at Fort Riley, a new Battalion was assigned to conduct the BCT. New trainees arrived at Fort Riley on 7 November with training starting a week later. The new Battalion was named the 1st Training Battalion and consisted of a Headquarters Detachment and Companies A, B, C, D, and E. The basic training content remained the same.¹⁰⁷ Training days usually started at 7:30 am and were filled with drills, classroom, and field training and ended around 4:30 pm.¹⁰⁸ Trainees had little time to spend on anything other than learning how to be an effective soldier.

¹⁰² “9th Medical Bn. Gives Important Classes to Basics,” *Fort Riley Post*, 17 June 1966, page unknown.

¹⁰³ “Trainees Arrive At Fort Riley,” *Fort Riley Post*, 8 April 1966, 1-2.

¹⁰⁴ “More Trainees Are Arriving at Fort Riley,” *Fort Riley Post*, 6 May 1966, 1.

¹⁰⁵ “9th Division Graduates First Basic Trainees,” *Fort Riley Post*, 3 June 1966, 1.

¹⁰⁶ “9th Medical Bn. Gives Important Classes to Basics,” page unknown.

¹⁰⁷ “New Battalion to Conduct Basic Combat Training,” *Fort Riley Post*, 4 November 1966, 1.

¹⁰⁸ “BG Seitz Addresses BCT Battalion on First Training Day,” *Fort Riley Post*, 18 November 1966, 1-2.

At the end of November, Companies C and D of the 1st Training Battalion began their basic training cycle. While Companies A and B started their second week of training. All schedules reflected the standardized training cycle that was implemented at Fort Riley and at other training installations in the United States.¹⁰⁹

Basic training at Fort Riley continued throughout the 1960s and into the early 1970s with few changes to the scheduling and content of the 8-week cycle. In the early 1970s, the Army investigated shortening the basic training cycle from eight weeks to six weeks. The shortened basic training schedule was tested at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and consisted of the same curriculum. The acceleration of the program was created by making more efficient use of training time.¹¹⁰

2.4.2 Advanced Individual Training Schools and Military Occupational Specialty Schools

After completion of BCT, some trainees continued on to AIT, which provided the trainees with an MOS through a course of instruction that included on-the-job training. In spring 1964, the trainees at Fort Riley had MOS Schools of Infantry and Heavy Weapons. The AIT trainees included troops that had completed basic training at Fort Riley, as well as those from other basic training installations. Trainees came directly from BCT at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Fort Dix, New Jersey. AIT training for these troops consisted of rifle squad tactics, and familiarization with the flame thrower, the M60 machine gun, and the 3.5 rocket launcher as well as firing .45 caliber pistols. Other classes included first aid and field sanitation.¹¹¹

The 1st Medical Battalion conducted other AIT training at Fort Riley in summer 1964, training 260 soldiers for jobs in the medical battalion. The training ran for nine weeks, and trainees were divided into two groups: the first group consisted of 100 men, who arrived on 5 June; the second group, with the remaining 160 men, began training on 13 July. The first six weeks were devoted to learning basic medical skills and how to care for casualties

¹⁰⁹ "Companies C, D of 1st Training Battalion Start Basic Combat Cycle," *Fort Riley Post*, 25 November 1966, 1.

¹¹⁰ "Short BCT Passes Test," *Fort Riley Post*, 2 July 1971, 17.

¹¹¹ "AIT Students Fire Pistols in Training," *Fort Riley Post*, 10 April 1964, page unknown.

in the field and in the hospital. The remaining three weeks consisted of specialized training in hospital skills.¹¹²

That same summer, the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, and 1st ID established a committee to organize the AIT requirements for newly arriving men. Instructional subjects covered by the committee included: M67 recoilless rifle, 50 caliber machine gun, field fortifications, escape and evasion, flame thrower, patrolling, communications, adjustment of artillery and mortar fire, mortar training, physical training, map and compass, .45 caliber pistol, bayonet, landmine warfare, explosives and demolitions, infrared devices, M60 machine gun training, night firing techniques, first aid, 106 recoilless rifle, and dismounted drill.¹¹³

The Fort Riley Basic Combat Training Brigade (Provisional) was formed to conduct BCT, and consisted of officers and noncommissioned officers as instructors. By February 1966, the Brigade had trained a total of more than 2,000 recruits, and the unit of instructors then returned to their parent organizations to administer AIT to trainees as part of the newly formed Continental Army Command “train and retain” program to alleviate or prevent shortages in units at the training installations.¹¹⁴

The last basic training graduates of the training brigade moved on to an eight-week cycle of AIT. During AIT, they trained for the MOS in vehicle mechanics. The group of trainees was divided into three sections—one to receive instruction in automotive maintenance, one for recovery specialist, and one for fuel and electrical system repairman. The AIT consisted of 352 hours of instruction with 104 hours of “general military subjects, command information, character guidance dismounted drill, counterinsurgency, map reading, physical training, and first aid.”¹¹⁵ The remaining 248 hours of instruction dealt with the technical issues of operation, maintenance, and the repair and recovery of military vehicles in a variety of situations including fuel, brake, suspension, and electrical systems as well as

¹¹² “Medical Unit Will Train 260 AIT’s,” *Fort Riley Post*, 26 June 1964, page unknown.

¹¹³ “Infantry Unit Sets up AIT Committee,” *Fort Riley Post*, 2 July 1964, page unknown.

¹¹⁴ “First AIT Classes Begin for New Riley Soldiers,” *Fort Riley Post*, 25 February 1966, 1.

¹¹⁵ *ibid.*, 1–2.

troubleshooting and malfunctions of vehicles in arctic and tropical weather.¹¹⁶

In late September 1966, Fort Riley prepared for the arrival of 875 AIT trainees. The soldiers arrived in two groups, with the first 423 arriving on Monday, 3 October, and the second group of 419 following a week later. The MOS training included “recreation specialists; physical activities specialists; arts and crafts specialists; infantry indirect fire crewmen; armor crewmen; field artillery; rocket crewmen; wiremen; textile and leather repair apprentice; metalworking apprentice; armament specialist apprentices; carpenters; firefighters; supply handlers; duty soldier; automotive maintenance apprentices; clerks; clerk-typists; supply clerks; general supply specialists; general draftsman; medical corpsmen; dental specialists; cooks; meat cutters; and military policemen”¹¹⁷ (Figure 6). In addition to training for their specialties, the training also included instruction in general military subjects. These same types of skills continued to be taught to trainees at Fort Riley throughout the 1960s, and new schools were added by the Education Division as recruit training expanded in scope and size.¹¹⁸ Courses were also developed for providing background knowledge, such as basic mathematics, electronics, physics, chemistry, slide rule, management, accounting, general biology and hygiene, microbiology, hematology, and basic electricity.¹¹⁹ An individual study course in survival techniques, prepared in Vietnamese, was also an option through the Education Center, and an MOS library there held field manuals, training manuals, and information on Army regulations.¹²⁰

¹¹⁶ *ibid.*, 2.

¹¹⁷ “875 men Will Arrive to Undergo Training,” *Fort Riley Post*, 30 September 1966, 1.

¹¹⁸ “To Receive On-The-Job AIT at Post,” *Fort Riley Post*, 20 January 1967, 1.

¹¹⁹ “Education Center Increases Scope of Jurisdiction,” *Fort Riley Post*, 20 May 1966, 1.

¹²⁰ *ibid.*, 1.

Figure 6. Private First Class Glenn W. Lacour, 541st Supply and Service Battalion of Fort Riley, adjusts a wheel bearing at the battalion's motor pool while receiving on-the-job training after automotive mechanics school, 1967
(*Fort Riley Post*, 2 June 1967).



In early 1970, the Army regrouped MOSs into 39 career fields. The move was to aid the promotion of soldiers throughout their military careers. The 39 Career Management Fields (CMF) were structured to provide a clear path for career planning and management for enlisted personnel. The CMFs were grouped according to compatibility of skills, aptitudes, occupational similarity, and organizational unity. CMFs allowed promotion through a field to enable a soldier to develop proficiency throughout his career.¹²¹

2.4.3 Vietnam-specific training at Fort Riley

2.4.3.1 Mock Vietnam village

Prior to the late 1965 through early 1966 construction of Lan-Co-Van-My (The American Advisor Village), there was no facility at the post for Vi-

¹²¹ "Army Regroups MOSs Into 39 Career Fields," *Fort Riley Post*, 9 January 1970, 1.

etnam-related jungle training. The mock village provided a complete training program upon the activation of the Fort Riley Training Brigade (Provisional).¹²² Lan-Co-Van-My Village contained a mock village with 18 buildings (examples in Figure 7) and a tunnel system, a class lecture area, and a booby-trap demonstration area.¹²³ The village area was used for display of visual information, construction styles, and enemy techniques for evasion and assault. Training associated with Lan-Co-Van-My Village was by a walk-through demonstration (see Figure 8–Figure 11), not live-action exercises.¹²⁴

The village was first utilized for training by the 9th ID in early May 1966. Basic Combat Trainees with the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry received five hours of jungle training on site by an Operations range officer. This would become the routine, with each battalion of the 9th ID receiving training at the village during the last week of the eight-week BCT cycle.¹²⁵ The training was described in a *Fort Riley Post* article:¹²⁶

The units will conduct five hours of jungle training consisting of a one hour orientation on Vietnam, two hours of classroom instruction in such jungle problems as heat, insects and animal bites, heavy foliage, sanitation and tropical hygiene and the psychological aspect of jungle operations, and tactical consideration in raids, ambushes, immediate action drills, formations, security of units in villages, search techniques and the techniques of the enemy.

The remaining two hours will be a demonstration and practical exercise in objects of village seizure and search, technique of seizure, clearing and search, interrogation procedures, certain psychological warfare aspects of population control, and detection and avoidance of booby traps and mines.

¹²² "Just One Year Ago Vietnamese Village Was Merely a Plan," *Fort Riley Post*, 23 December 1966, unknown page.

¹²³ *ibid.*; "Fort Riley's Vietnamese Village," *Fort Riley Post*, 6 May 1966, unknown page.

¹²⁴ "Just One Year Ago Vietnamese Village Was Merely a Plan," unknown page.

¹²⁵ "Fort Riley's Vietnamese Village," unknown page.

¹²⁶ "Basic Trainees Will Receive Jungle Training," *Fort Riley Post*, 15 April 1966, 5.

Figure 7. Examples of regional hut styles at the Fort Riley Mock Vietnam Village, Lan-Co-Van-My, in July 1966 (NARA III-CCS-CC35664).



Figure 8. Men coming out of false wall in simulated Vietnam Village training section orientation area, Fort Riley, July 1966 (NARA III-CCS-CC35670).



Figure 9. Man-sized punji stick trap covered and camouflaged, Fort Riley Mock Vietnam Village, July 1966 (NARA III-CCS-CC35668).



Figure 10. Trainees of the 9th Infantry Division view tunnel in Viet Nam Village built in Fort Riley, July 1966 (NARA III-CCS-CC35662).



Figure 11. Second Lieutenant Robert J. Konrardy, assistant instructor, explains the tunnel system and entrance to basic combat trainees, 1966
(*Fort Riley Post*, 6 May 1966).



In addition to BCT, the area was used for Advanced Individual Training, Basic and Advanced Unit Training, and Division exercises. It was designed to accommodate a battalion-size unit for training and could be used as a brigade headquarters for larger exercises. Lan-Co-Van-My Village was used for training until at least 1971.¹²⁷

The village was also utilized in part by another training school on post. By 1968, there was a Preparation of Replacements (POR) for Overseas Movement School operating at Fort Riley. The function was to train individual soldiers to function as replacements in units already in Vietnam as their ranks were reduced by attrition. Both those soldiers who had no experience in Vietnam and the Vietnam veterans who had been back in the United States for over a year were required to attend the school before deployment. The POR School at Fort Riley was designed as a five-day course to give Vietnam-bound soldiers instructions based on lessons learned in the war effort. Subjects included “an overseas orientation; foreign mines

¹²⁷ “Basic Trainees Will Receive Jungle Training,” 5; “Junction City Youths Play Viet Cong Role Well in ROTC Training Camp,” *Junction City Union*, 31 July 1970, 7.

and booby traps; perimeter defense; duties of sentries; conduct of patrols; fire support; common enemy weapons; a study of the Vietnamese village; operations orders; reaction drills; field problems; jungle survival and drug abuse.”¹²⁸ Proficiency with the M-16 was a must for graduation (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Specialist Four Nathel Green, POR Instructor, cleaning an M-16 during training in Vietnamese Village, Fort Riley, 1970 (*Fort Riley Post*, 14 August 1970).



2.4.3.2 Vietnam-related field training

Field training exercises were utilized to combine all the elements of training into a “live-action” learning experience for the soldiers. These exercises were held on various parts of the training ranges; by January 1966, portions of the newly acquired training lands were being used for this purpose. Field training exercises usually lasted for three days.¹²⁹ Planning for the exercises included developing and implementing field problems associated with combat in Vietnam, such as guerrilla tactics, sniper fire, and ambushes (Figure 13 and Figure 14). Various elements of the troops stationed at Fort Riley took part in this type of exercise, such as the aviation groups (Figure 15).

¹²⁸ “POR School Lessens Anxieties About Vietnam,” *Fort Riley Post*, 14 August 1970, page unknown.

¹²⁹ “New Land Used in Field Exercise,” *Fort Riley Post*, 7 January 1966, 1.

Figure 13. “Viet Cong” soldier triggers an ambush during a field training exercise for overseas replacement troops, 1968 (*Fort Riley Post*, 1 March 1968).



Figure 14. Defenses are set up in a field training exercise for overseas replacement troops, 1968 (*Fort Riley Post*, 1 March 1968).



Figure 15. HU1B helicopters of the 9th Aviation Bn., 9th Inf. Div., lift men of Co. B, 2nd Bn. (mechanized), 47th Inf., 9th Inf. Div., 15 November 1966 (NARA).



2.4.3.3 Prisoner of war training

The field training exercises sometimes interacted with training designed to teach recruits how to escape and evade capture, and how to cope with confinement if they became POWs. Escape and Evasion courses were designed to be highly realistic. As part of AIT, soldiers were taken into the field where they were presented with a combat situation. The class problem was usually a scenario wherein the soldiers were conducting long-range patrols in an area. In the “story,” the soldiers had been dropped into the area by a helicopter three days earlier and were waiting for an airlift out. However, when the airlift arrived, they had placed their packs and weapons on the helicopter, but before the soldiers could board, aggressor fire forced the helicopters to leave without them. The soldiers, stranded in enemy territory, had to evade the enemy and maneuver on foot until friendly forces were reached. Aggressors patrolled the road and were stationed at strategic points along the route. To increase the realism, a helicopter might be employed to patrol the area with a spotlight, searching for trainees. Escape and Evasion training at Fort Riley increased in its realism throughout the late 1960s. In July 1967, the 192nd Aviation Company was in a compass

and map reading class when it was invaded by a group of aggressor troops. The surprise attack took nearly all of the 192nd as prisoners.¹³⁰

When captured, trainees were taken to the installation's mock POW compound, named "Dontraí Conran," which was designed to introduce soldiers to what might be encountered in a real POW situation—confinement (Figure 16), interrogation, and torture. At the camp, soldiers could apply what they had learned in their Survival Escape and Evasion instruction. Their captors would often demand physical training and close-order drills of the POWs. The captives at the camp were confined and "tortured" in "hard" and "soft" ways. Hard torture included threats and harassments while soft torture taught the captives how to resist trickery, promises, and special treatment. During interrogations, soldiers were taught to only provide basic information that included their name, grade, service number, and date of birth. The captive soldiers were expected to escape, either as a group or alone, and once free of the camp they were to navigate to "friendly" locations nearby. To illustrate interrogation techniques, personal information and signatures were extracted from some of the POWs.¹³¹ Escapees who were recaptured were taken back to the camp where they were "tortured" by having to carry railroad ties, low crawl through the snow, and do push-ups in the mud. Prisoners were also confined in lockers before being brought out for interrogating. Most soldiers admitted the course was hard but effective at teaching techniques for surviving a POW situation.¹³²

¹³⁰ "Garrison AITs Complete Escape, Evasion Class," *Fort Riley Post*, 24 February 1967, 5.

¹³¹ "Trainees Learn How to Cope with Aggressors," *Fort Riley Post*, 23 April 1965, 13; "Dontraí Conran' – Prisoner of War Compound," *Fort Riley Post*, 28 October 1966, page unknown; "Routine March Becomes Aggressor's Ambush," *Fort Riley Post*, 11 February 1964, page unknown.

¹³² "Post Unit Learns About Evasion, Escape First Hand," *Fort Riley Post*, 28 July 1967, page unknown; "On Threats, Promises, Escape and Evasion," *Fort Riley Post*, 26 March 1971, 6.

Figure 16. “Prisoners” congregated inside the barbed wire of the P.O.W. camp run by the 1st ID’s 1 Squadron, 4th Cavalry after a day’s training in survival, escape, and evasion, Fort Riley, 1971 (*Fort Riley Post*, 26 March 1971).



2.5 Construction at Fort Riley, 1964–1974

A February 1968 article in the *Fort Riley Post* described the installation as having facilities equal to supporting a division and provided a snapshot of the installation at the peak of its development activity during the 1960s:¹³³

Fort Riley is divided into six separate built-up areas – Main Post, Marshall Army Airfield, Camp Forsyth, Camp Funston, Camp Whitside, and Custer Hill. The Main Post, old Fort Riley, is practically all permanent type construction many of the buildings being constructed of native lime stone, quarried on the post. Located in the Main Post area are the headquarters buildings and areas. Most post activities are centered here. Approximately 2,000 troops can be billeted on the Main Post.

Marshall Army Airfield has a dual 4,500 foot runway and ground controlled approach equipment. There are facilities for billeting 530 in this area [...] Camp Forsyth was established in 1941 and consists of modernized temporary building, largely constructed during World War II. Billeting facilities for 5,300 troops are available in Camp Forsyth. Camp Funston was originally established in World War I. The camp was demolished following the war and the present buildings are of World War II

¹³³ “Ft. Riley Facilities Fine for Division,” *Fort Riley Post*, 9 February 1968, 10-C.

vintage. The buildings are of temporary construction with a housing capacity of 12,000 troops. Irwin Army Hospital is located at Camp Whitside. The hospital is a modern facility of permanent construction. It has a 250 bed capacity and an additional 150 beds are available through rehabilitation of selected buildings of the old World War II hospital area.

Custer Hill is the newest addition to the installation. Permanent barracks, maintenance facilities, a chapel, dental clinic, service club, bowling alley, theater and swimming pool provide facilities for 4,000 troops. New construction has started on another 10 barracks complex which will provide an additional 3,200 troop billets. Congressional approval for another barracks complex area has been granted but funds have not yet been released for construction.

The total troop billeting capacity at Fort Riley is approximately 20,000 enlisted men at 72 square feet per man or 27,000 at 55 square feet per man. The 100,000 acre reservation offers a wide and complete variety of range and training facilities. Today, the live fire ranges and maneuver space available at Fort Riley are adequate to simultaneously train all the elements of an entire infantry division in a realistic manner.

From 1964 to 1974, Fort Riley doubled in acreage, facilities developed to support an Army division, and the construction focus shifted away from family housing to troop housing. Barracks, and the facilities necessary to support the troops living in them and their equipment, dominated construction activity. The majority of this development occurred on Custer Hill.

2.5.1 Land acquisition for reservation expansion

In the late 1950s, it became apparent that the Fort Riley reservation was not large enough for the proper training of an infantry division. Additional land was needed for maneuvering equipment and for firing tank weapons. In November 1963, the Department of the Army asked Congress to approve acquisition of 50,000 acres on the west and north of the Fort Riley reservation boundaries. This would double the size of the existing 51,902-acre reservation. Expected costs were \$15 million over two years.¹³⁴ In September 1966, Fort Riley finalized the acquisition of 46,065 acres of

¹³⁴ "Army Seeks 50,000 Acres For Fort Riley," *Fort Riley Post*, 1 November 1963, 10.

land and began mapping out uses for various areas (Figure 17).¹³⁵ Fort Riley also gained permission to use 3,435 acres of land on the Milford Reservation for field exercises, cross-country maneuvers, and gunnery practice.

Figure 17. John Montgomery, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; and LTC A.S. Murray Jr., BG John A. Seitz, LTC Paul J. Kolchak, and SGI C. M. Harlin, all of Fort Riley, inspect the Winkler Place on Track 620 of the newly acquired land at Ft. Riley Kansas, 20 December 1966 (NARA III-SC 636177).



2.5.2 Facility construction at Fort Riley, 1964–1974

Construction on Custer Hill had begun in the previous decade, spurred by the increase in troops at the post and by a devastating flood in 1951. In an effort to avoid future flood damage, Custer Hill was chosen as the site for new development, away from the floodplains (Figure 18). By 1963, a proposed 15-year construction program was partly underway, with the goal of replacing existing temporary buildings with permanent construction.¹³⁶ Large family housing areas had been completed and by 1960, three barracks construction programs had resulted in 13 facilities for unaccompanied personnel housing, in three different styles (Hammerhead, H-style, and Rolling Pin). The layout that was to typify the Custer Hill Troop Area was already taking shape, with concentric arcs circling the relatively flat area on top of the hill (Figure 19). The central arc held barracks and facilities that supported each barracks complex, while facilities that were

¹³⁵ "Ft. Riley Facilities Fine For Division," 10-C.

¹³⁶ "Retiring General Engineer at Post Claims Fort Riley as Home Town," *Junction City Union*, 14 December 1963, 7.

shared more widely were located on the inner arc. Motor pools and other vehicular and equipment support structures were built along the outside arc of the development (Figure 18 and Figure 19).

Figure 18. Aerial view of Custer Hill troop billeting area, looking northeast, 1966 (NARA 111-CCS-CC33179).



Figure 19. Custer Hill Troop Area, looking south, showing Hammerhead style barracks in the background, H-style barracks in the center, and Rolling Pin-style barracks in the foreground, 1967 (Museum Division, Fort Riley).



During 1964–1974, the majority of new buildings constructed were located at Custer Hill, although little construction occurred between 1964 and 1968. Nearly all of the buildings constructed from 1964–1974 were either barracks for troop housing, support buildings for the troops housed there, or support facilities for the troops' equipment. The support facilities were largely administrative, recreational, or maintenance in nature and use. Between 1967 and 1970, facilities to house and support 6,520 men were completed at Custer Hill.

The military construction budget for 1966 contained \$9,000,000 for Fort Riley to construct seven barracks. As DoD budgets for Continental United States (CONUS) construction began to tighten up due to expenditures in Vietnam, however, that funding was cut from the budget.¹³⁷ However, an appropriation for barracks construction did make it through the 1967 budget process. The result was the first of two large barracks complexes, constructed on Custer Hill from 1967–1970. Each construction project provided 10 barracks and mess halls, along with associated support facilities. The first project was awarded to the Hensel Phelps Construction Company of Greeley, Colorado, on 30 June 1967.¹³⁸ The building site was located near existing barracks on Custer Hill. Construction proceeded quickly on the \$11.74 million project, with concrete pouring on the first foundations starting 6 weeks after the contract was awarded. The project included the following buildings:¹³⁹

- 10 enlisted men's barracks buildings, each a three-story building measuring 284 x 57 feet.
- 4 enlisted men's mess buildings, each a one-story building measuring 136 x 86 feet.
- 4 administration and storage buildings, each a one-story building measuring 221 x 56 feet.
- 3 battalion headquarters and classroom buildings, each a one-story building measuring 120 by 67 feet.
- 1 brigade headquarters, a two-story building measuring 80 x 40 feet.

¹³⁷ "Fort Riley Building Funds Cut," *Junction City Union*, 22 June 1965, 1.

¹³⁸ "Contract Awarded for New Barracks," *Fort Riley Post*, 29 November 1968, 1.

¹³⁹ "Announce \$9 Million Low Bid on Barracks Complex at Fort Riley," *Fort Riley Post*, 9 June 1967, 2; "Troop Area Building Progresses," *Fort Riley Post*, 18 August 1967, unknown page.

- 1 branch post exchange, a one story building measuring 83 x 46 feet.
- 1 dispensary, a one-story building measuring 97 x 42 feet.
- 1 regimental gymnasium, a one-story building measuring 215 x 95 feet.

In Figure 20, half of the first barracks complex is seen to be under construction. The five barracks (Facilities 7610, 7612, 7614, 7616, 7618) occupy the central area, with support structures also under construction to the left of the barracks - dining facilities (7604, 7606) and company headquarters (7602 and 7608). Each set of five barracks had two dining facilities and two company headquarters buildings. The bowling alley (7485) and Caldwell Army Dental Clinic (7665) can be seen in the foreground.

Figure 20. Aerial view of construction progress of enlisted men's barracks complex, Custer Hill, March 1968 (NARA 14-040-949/AL-68).



Eight months later, this set of barracks was nearing completion, while the second set of five barracks (Facilities 7642, 7644, 7646, 7648, 7650) was under construction, along with the mess halls (7654, 7656) and company headquarters (7642, 7658), and shared facilities placed between the two sets of barracks (Figure 21). The shared facilities included battalion headquarters (7624, 7630, and 7638), dispensary (7626), gymnasium (7632), and exchange branch (7640).

Supporting construction work also included an addition to the sewage treatment plant and the necessary landscape components of streets, parking areas, sidewalks, and lawn seeding. Five barracks buildings were nearing completion in November 1968, allowing partial occupancy of the building complex.¹⁴⁰ Construction on the complex was completed in 1969.

Figure 21. The first 10-barracks complex at Custer Hill under construction. Two sets of 5 barracks with mess halls are separated by a group of shared facilities, 1968 (*Fort Riley Post*, 29 November 1968).



A large appropriation for fiscal year 1968 construction at Fort Riley was reflective of the installation's growth, both in terms of the expanded acreage and the expanding role in military training. The approximately \$22 million appropriation provided for additional troop housing facilities, among other projects.¹⁴¹ Specifically, the appropriation provided for an identical barracks complex to the one underway on Custer Hill.

The second barracks complex, for 3,260 men at 326 per barracks building, was constructed adjacent to the first, with the contract for \$13,125,000 awarded on 22 November 1968.¹⁴² The joint bid was won by the Hensel Phelps Construction Company and the Penner Construction Company of

¹⁴⁰ "Troop Area Building Progresses," unknown page.

¹⁴¹ "U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction," *Fort Riley Post*, 29 September 1967, 13.

¹⁴² "Contract Awarded for New Barracks," 1; "U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction," 13.

Denver, Colorado. The work was begun quickly, and the completed facilities were provided in a rolling schedule, with some to be finished within 360 days and the entire project to be completed in 804 days.¹⁴³ The project included identical buildings to the first complex, with the addition of a chapel.¹⁴⁴ Extant buildings constructed as part of this complex are 7806, 7808, 7824, 7826, 7832, 7834, 7836, 7840, 7842, 7844, 7846, 7848, 7850, 7852, 7854, 7856, and 7858. The construction was completed in 1970, with the exception of the brigade headquarters building, which was finished in 1971. The new housing facilities replaced the use of deteriorating WWII temporary buildings in Camp Forsyth and Camp Funston as barracks.¹⁴⁵ The shared facilities in the 7600 barracks complex did not entirely match those in the 7800 complex, but each complex as a whole had the same facilities. The chapel located near the 7800 barracks complex (Facility 7865) served a larger community.

All the buildings in the barracks complex were constructed with concrete floors and brick-faced concrete-block walls. The contract also provided for site work including roads in the complex area, grading, sidewalks, parking lots, water and sewer systems, and seeding the ground around the buildings.¹⁴⁶ Also as part of this appropriation, funds were provided for extension of the roads on either side of the barracks complexes, continuing the concentric arcs that define the layout of the Custer Hill Troop Area at Fort Riley.¹⁴⁷

Along with the barracks construction, facilities were built for equipment maintenance and storage. Motor pools were created “behind” the barracks complexes to support the maintenance needs of the units housed there. The standard layout for these facilities was a large paved area with buildings located near the front. There was a large motor repair shop usually in an “L” shape with many bays. There were smaller rectangular battalion equipment storage buildings, small dispatchers’ offices at the entry to the motor pool, and oil houses for storing materials near the repair shops.

¹⁴³ “Contract Awarded for New Barracks,” 1.

¹⁴⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ “Contract Awarded for New Barracks,” 1; “U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction,” 13.

¹⁴⁶ “Contract Awarded for New Barracks,” 1.

¹⁴⁷ “U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction,” 13.

The first construction along these lines provided motor pool facilities for the barracks built earlier. A motor repair shop (Facility 7350) was built behind the 7200 area, along with a battalion storage building (Facility 7351) and a dispatcher's office (Facility 7352), all completed in 1966 (Figure 22). The project builder was DMH Enterprises, Inc.

Figure 22. Motor Maintenance Shop (Facility 7350) at Custer Hill with Dispatcher's Office (7352) in front, December 1966 (NARA 14-040-5244/AL-66).



The Penner Construction Company received a \$3,855,729 contract in April 1968 for construction of vehicle maintenance shops and allied facilities in the Custer Hill area in support of 1,150 vehicles.¹⁴⁸ Completed in 1969, these motor pool facilities supported vehicular activities of troops housed in the 7600 area (Facilities 7720, 7721, 7722, 7724, 7740, 7742, 7744, 7760, 7762, 7780, and 7782), and the 7800 area (Facilities 7900, 7902, 7904). Three battalion equipment storage buildings (Facilities 7741, 7761, and 7781) and one brigade general storehouse (Facility 7901) in these groups were not completed until early 1970. Additional motor pool facilities were constructed in 1972–1973 for the 7800 troop area (Facilities 7920, 7921, 7922, 7923, 7932, 7940, 7941, 7942, 7944, 7960, 7961, 7962, and 7964) (Figure 23).¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁸ "U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction," 13.

¹⁴⁹ "\$7.5 Million Appropriation OKd," *Fort Riley Post*, 2 October 1970, 10.

Figure 23. Maintenance Shop (Facility 7940) and Battalion Equipment Storage (Facility 7941, lower right) on Custer Hill, August 1972 (NARA SC 666178).



Of these support facilities, one of the maintenance shops (Facility 7920) is a different type organization of the maintenance shop design, essentially having five maintenance shop buildings attached to a central supply point. Constructed in 1973, the \$1.77 million building was built by the Martin K. Eby Construction Company, Inc. As a modified concept, it seems to have worked better as a supply and storage facility (its current use). No others of this type were constructed.¹⁵⁰

2.5.3 Other facilities constructed on Custer Hill

The U.S. Army requested \$573,000 in 1963 for a new chapel at Fort Riley (Facility 5315).¹⁵¹ The “all faiths” chapel was built by Abbot Construction Company of Salina, Kansas, and is located near the Peterson Heights and Warner Heights family housing areas at Custer Hill.¹⁵² Bids for the construction project were opened on 23 January 1964, and the facility was

¹⁵⁰ “D/S Maintenance Shop, Architectural, Floor Plan – Composite,” (Salina, KS: Wilson & Company Architects-Engineers), 7 May 1971.

¹⁵¹ “\$861,000 Is Requested For Ft. Riley,” *Fort Riley Post*, 6 September 1963, 5.

¹⁵² “New Riley Chapel To Be Dedicated,” *Fort Riley Post*, 25 June 1965, 1.

completed 17 months later.¹⁵³ Dedication of the Morris Hill Chapel occurred on 28 June 1965, with ceremonies both inside and outside. The building consisted of the 600-seat main chapel with a sacristy, choir room, dressing rooms, offices, and wings with 12 classrooms, a large assembly room, lounge, kitchen, nursery, bridal room, cloak room and Baptistry.¹⁵⁴ The masonry building was based on a standard mid-century Army design (Figure 24). On 12 May 1968, new stained-glass windows were dedicated in the Morris Hill Chapel. Created by the Hauser Studios of Stained Glass in Winona, Minnesota, the faceted art-glass windows depict Old Testament, New Testament, and contemporary scenes.¹⁵⁵

Figure 24. Morris Hill Chapel (Facility 5315), 1968 (NARA 111-CCS-CC47769).



A new dental clinic was constructed on Custer Hill and opened 10 August 1966 (Figure 25). The Caldwell Army Dental Clinic (Facility 7665) was built by Wilson Constructors, Inc. of Salina, Kansas, at a cost of \$550,000. The facility contained “28 dental operating rooms, a prosthodontic laboratory, diagnostic x-ray facilities, a conference room and library, reception room, administrative offices and supply rooms.”¹⁵⁶ A memorial plaque was placed at the facility in honor of Colonel Warren Charles Caldwell, U.S.

¹⁵³ “Bids Asked On Building At Fort Riley,” *Junction City Union*, 8 January 1964, 1.

¹⁵⁴ *ibid.*; “New Riley Chapel To Be Dedicated,” 1.

¹⁵⁵ “Chapel Windows Dedicated Sunday,” *Fort Riley Post*, 17 May 1968, 1.

¹⁵⁶ “Caldwell Army Dental Clinic to Be Dedicated Wednesday,” *Fort Riley Post*, 5 August 1966, 1.

Army Dental Corps. Remarks were given by Major General Joseph L. Bernier, Assistant Surgeon General and Chief of the Dental Corps.¹⁵⁷

Figure 25. New Caldwell Army Dental Clinic, 18 August 1966 (NARA III CCS 55919).



A clubhouse (Facility 5202) for the Custer Hill golf course was constructed in 1966 at a cost of \$51,414. The course had opened in 1958, and a driving range was added in 1963. The clubhouse was converted to a sports pro shop, possibly in 1995 when the facility underwent extensive renovations.¹⁵⁸ A new bowling alley (Facility 7485) with 24 lanes opened in 1967. The facility was constructed at a cost of \$539,003, and it is located at Estes Road and Normandy Drive (Figure 26 and Figure 27). A new Special Weapons Training Building (Facility 7305) was constructed in 1966 by Abbot Construction, Inc., of Salina, Kansas (Figure 28). An exchange service station was added on Normandy Drive in 1965, at the edge of the Custer Hill Family Housing Area.

¹⁵⁷ "Caldwell Army Dental Clinic to Be Dedicated Wednesday," 1.

¹⁵⁸ "Golf Pro, Reduced Rates Highlight Opening of Driving Range Tonight," *Fort Riley Post*, 13 September 1963, 1.

Figure 26. The Custer Hill Bowling Alley under construction, December 1966
(NARA SC 635000 Book #11).



Figure 27. The New Custer Hill Bowling Alley (Facility 7485), August 1967
(NARA III-CCS-CC42960).



Figure 28. Special Weapons Training Building (Facility 7305), December 1966 (NARA 14-040-5243/AL-66).



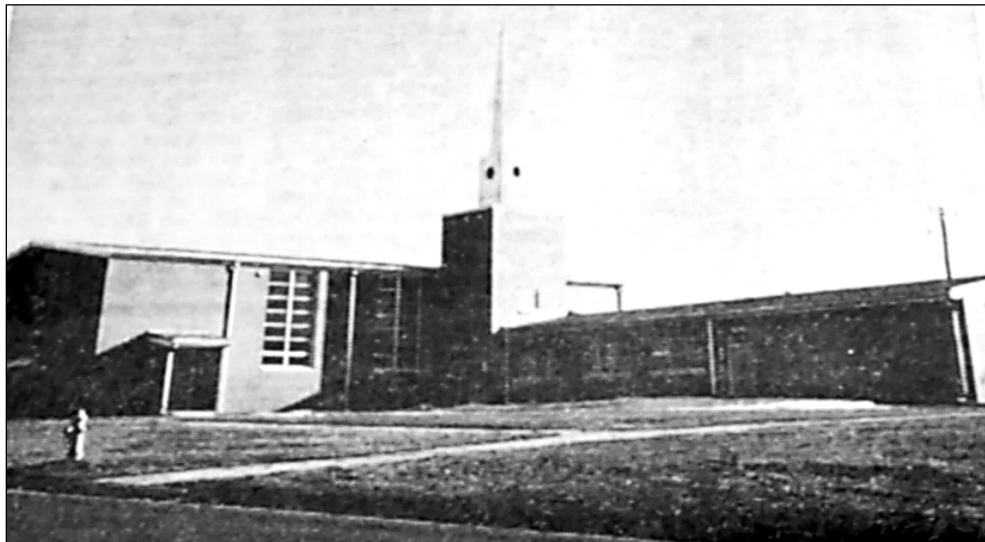
A new chapel on Custer Hill, the ninth for Fort Riley overall, was completed at the end of 1970 and dedicated on 28 February 1971. The Normandy Chapel (Facility 7865) was constructed by the Hensel Phelps - Penner Construction Company at a cost of \$302,266.¹⁵⁹ The standard plan building has over 8,700 square feet divided into 16 rooms, including the chapel itself, an activities room, and nursery facilities (Figure 29). The facility was furnished with equipment for both Christian and Jewish services. The chapel was designed to provide a religious facility for the 1st Division Artillery, Division Support Command, 1st Engineer Battalion and 6th Battalion, 67th Air Defense Artillery.¹⁶⁰ The Normandy Chapel suffered a serious fire in 1981, with significant damage to both the interior and exterior walls. As a result, the facility was essentially reconstructed in 1984.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁹ "Dedication Ceremony Set For Custer Hill Chapel," *Fort Riley Post*, 26 February 1971, 4.

¹⁶⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁶¹ Paula Fultz, Fort Riley Real Property Office, e-mail correspondence with author, 26 January 2017.

Figure 29. Normandy Chapel on Custer Hill just after completion, 1971 (*Fort Riley Post*, 26 February 1971).



2.5.4 Construction of facilities on the main post

An authorization for \$288,000 was requested in 1964 for a new barracks for members of the Women's Army Corps (WAC).¹⁶² The WAC facilities previously used were WWII-era temporary buildings, which were razed after the new facility was opened. The enlisted women's barracks was constructed by M.W. Mills, Manhattan, Kansas, as prime contractor, with Captain Stanley K. Nodland, Kansas City Engineering District, Corps of Engineers, serving as project engineer.¹⁶³ Constructed as a two-story wood-frame building with a one-story wing for mess facilities, the first floor featured a brick veneer. The new WAC barracks was constructed in the Main Post area, northeast of Building 108, Post Headquarters. With a capacity of 75, there were four-woman rooms and two-woman rooms. The facility offered an air conditioned combination mess hall and classroom, a day room, a reception room, a commanding officer's office, and an orderly room and laundry. The project also included the necessary roads, sidewalks, and parking areas.¹⁶⁴ The enlisted women's barracks opened on 2 August 1965.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶² "\$861,000 Is Requested For Ft. Riley," 5.

¹⁶³ *ibid.*; "Women's Barracks Has Tree on Top," *Fort Riley Post*, 15 January 1965, unknown page.

¹⁶⁴ "Bids Asked on Building at Fort Riley," 1; "Enlisted Women Move into New Building Aug. 2," *Fort Riley Post*, 30 July 1965, 4.

¹⁶⁵ "WACs and Guests Initiate New Barracks," *Fort Riley Post*, 6 August 1965, 12.

A Cavalry Parade Viewing Stand (Facility 238) was built in 1968, using troop labor. This limestone structure provided a permanent viewing area on the Cavalry parade ground for spectators attending ceremonies, re-views, and other presentations. It is located off Sheridan Avenue in the vicinity of the Old Trooper Monument on the northern edge of the parade.

2.5.5 Construction of training facilities

2.5.5.1 Mock Vietnam village

The village was located in a heavily wooded area at Camp Forsyth, about 100 yards from the Republican River.¹⁶⁶ The construction project was led by a Vietnam veteran, Captain Floyd H. McAfee, who used his personal experience in designing the village complex. Using a \$500 budget, 18 houses, and a 1,800-foot tunnel system were completed by troop labor in about two months. Most materials were procured locally (logs, thatch) or salvaged (tin, 55-gallon drums for tunnels, lumber).¹⁶⁷

Lan-Co-Van-My Village contained three separate areas: the village itself (Figure 30), a building for Vietnam-themed displays (Figure 31) a class lecture area that included demonstration huts (two are shown in Figure 32), and a booby-trap demonstration area (Figure 33). The lecture area had bleachers and a public address system, as well as four huts built in different regional styles and having a false wall and false roof to teach where the enemy may be hiding.¹⁶⁸

The booby-trap area had 26 different traps, including use of grenades, covered traps, and bamboo spikes. The village was surrounded by barbed wire and contained the houses (three used for a school, an apartment, and a hut for the village chief), a Buddhist shrine, a market square, haystacks (a disguised command post), and flag poles. There was also a boathouse and dock on the river. Tunnels connected each building. One of the buildings was used to display visual information such as pictures of combat in Vietnam, and drawings of uniforms, booby-traps, and tunnel systems (see Figure 31). In late 1966, soldiers received a two-hour period of instruction

¹⁶⁶ "Just One Year Ago Vietnamese Village Was Merely a Plan," *Fort Riley Post*, 23 December 1966, unknown page.

¹⁶⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ *ibid.*

at the Village complex, including information on construction methods of houses, tunnels, and booby traps.¹⁶⁹

Figure 30. Fort Riley Mock Vietnam Village area, July 1966
(NARA 111-CCS-CC35661).



Figure 31. Display area in simulated Vietnam Village at Fort Riley, shows drawings of booby traps and photographs of scenes from Vietnam, July 1966
(NARA 111-CCS-CC35663).



¹⁶⁹ "Just One Year Ago Vietnamese Village Was Merely a Plan," unknown page; "Dependents, Guests Tour Vietnamese Village on Post," *Fort Riley Post*, 17 March 1967, 12.

Figure 32. Examples of false-roofed and false-walled huts face bleachers for trainees in the Vietnam Village lecture area at Fort Riley, July 1966 (NARA 111-CCS-CC35664).



Figure 33. Instructor pointing out arrow booby-trap at Vietnam Village training site, July 1966 (NARA 111-CCS-CC35669).



2.5.5.2 Range facilities

The large land acquisition in 1966 provided space for infantry and vehicle training purposes that was away from the impact area. Among the major projects to ready these lands for training were the creation of tank range and rifle ranges. The large fiscal year (FY) 1968 appropriation for construction at Fort Riley included two projects for facilities to support troop training “on a division basis.”¹⁷⁰ Utilizing the recently acquired large training area, the projects were for a tank gun range at a cost of \$1,793,000, and four rifle squad tactical ranges for \$1,491,000.¹⁷¹ The Hensel Phelps Construction Company and the Penner Construction Company each received one of these projects.¹⁷² These projects were completed in 1969 and 1970, with the tank gunnery complex in use by March 1970.¹⁷³

Facilities on the ranges varied somewhat, according to the weapon or training type required; however, there were similarities among most facilities constructed. Range facilities usually had an area for weapons practice, an observation tower for instructors, sheds or other structures for storage of equipment such as targets, and a building for briefings, classroom instruction, or shelter. Additionally, there may have been a latrine, and possibly a mess hall. The large majority of these facilities were constructed quickly and inexpensively; many were prefabricated and could be relocated to various ranges. There were more permanent administrative, storage, and maintenance facilities constructed in centralized locations on the training lands to support range control operations or multiple adjacent ranges.

2.5.6 Construction and alteration of road system

One of the first major construction projects completed in 1964 was the new bridge over the Kansas River, connecting the Main Post with Marshall Army Airfield and providing access to Interstate 70. The 960-foot span replaced the one-lane Engineer Bridge, which had been damaged by floods several times over the decades since it was constructed. In 1962, an ice floe buildup on the Kansas River resulted in one pier being destroyed and another damaged. Although the Engineer Bridge was repaired by March,

¹⁷⁰ “U.S. Senate Approves Authorization of Fort Riley Barracks Construction,” 13.

¹⁷¹ *ibid.*

¹⁷² “Contract Awarded for New Barracks,” 1.

¹⁷³ “Post’s Newest Facility,” *Fort Riley Post*, 6 March 1970, page unknown.

plans were being created by the Corps of Engineers to construct a higher and stronger replacement bridge. Construction of this new bridge was started in November 1962 and completed in April 1964 (Figure 34). The \$8-million project was constructed by Armstrong Inc. of Ames, Iowa, which was responsible for paving, roadwork, and drainage, and by List and Clark Construction Co. of Kansas City, Missouri, which built the super-structure and a second 280-foot overpass above the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.¹⁷⁴

Figure 34. Robert T. Henry Bridge across the Kansas River, Fort Riley, KS
(*Fort Riley Post*, 7 August 1970).



The bridge was named the Robert T. Henry Bridge by general order, and a dedication ceremony was held on 29 April 1964.¹⁷⁵ Private Henry, 16th Infantry, 1st Division, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in action against the enemy in WWII. The bridge was dedicated, and a plaque at the south end bearing Private Henry's name was unveiled by the Honorable Cyrus B. Vance, then Deputy Secretary of Defense (Figure 35).¹⁷⁶ Lt. General Charles Dodge, Commanding General of the 5th Army, was also present at the dedication. The Engineer Bridge was demolished in 1968, having been in operation since its construction in

¹⁷⁴ "Bridge Construction in Full Swing," *Fort Riley Post*, 19 April 1963, 1; "Expect Completed Bridge in December," *Fort Riley Post*, 19 April 1963, 11.

¹⁷⁵ "March Into The Past: The Life of Riley," *Fort Riley Post*, 7 August 1970, 11.

¹⁷⁶ "Deputy Secretary Vance to Dedicate New Bridge Here," *Fort Riley Post*, 24 April 1964, 1; "Bridge Dedicated As Memorial To Soldier," *Fort Riley Post*, 1 May 1964, 1-2.

1920 by troops with bridge-building experience in World War I. The Engineer Bridge had remained as a standby option after the Henry Bridge was completed.¹⁷⁷

Figure 35. The Honorable Cyrus B. Vance, Deputy Secretary of Defense, unveils a plaque dedicating the Private Robert T. Henry Bridge, 29 April 1964 (*Fort Riley Post*).



The rapid growth of Fort Riley in the mid-1960s created serious traffic congestion problems, because the number of personal vehicles had nearly doubled to 8,202 between February and July 1966.¹⁷⁸ A survey was conducted on post by a two-man team from the U.S. Army Transportation Engineering Agency, Fort Eustis, Virginia, Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service. The survey evaluated traffic density and origin, and the data was used to assist decision making about potential road projects to ease the congestion. Options included a road from Camp Funston to Custer Hill, a road from Interstate 70 at Junction City to Ogden, and a widening of 9th Division Road from the Main Post to Custer Hill.¹⁷⁹

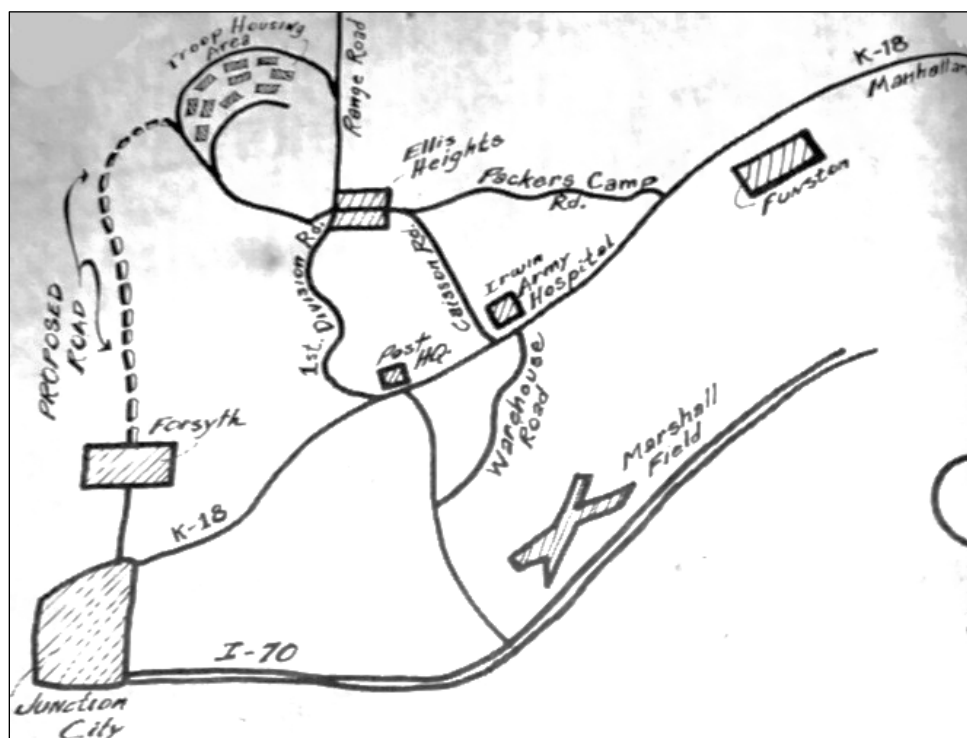
¹⁷⁷ "Engineer Bridge to Be Destroyed," *Fort Riley Post*, 22 March 1968, 7.

¹⁷⁸ "Traffic Troubles Double With Ft. Riley Growth," *Fort Riley Post*, 12 August 1966, 1.

¹⁷⁹ *ibid.*

The return to Fort Riley of the 1st ID only increased the traffic problem, as they moved into Custer Hill barracks, or lived in Junction City and drove to their units on Custer Hill every day. The road between the Main Post and the top of the hill was not capable of carrying the traffic load, as 75% of all traffic enters Custer Hill by way of [now] 1st Division Road.¹⁸⁰ The solution was a new road running from Camp Forsyth to Custer Hill (Figure 36). The low bid of \$88,682 for the project was submitted by George H. Myers, Inc. in September 1970.¹⁸¹ By the next spring, construction by the Myers Construction Company of El Dorado, Kansas, was underway to provide access between Custer Hill and Junction City via Camp Forsyth, with a completion date of September 1971.¹⁸²

Figure 36. Custer Hill road network, showing new connector to Camp Forsyth at the left of the drawing, 1971 (*Fort Riley Post*).



¹⁸⁰ "Custer Hill Traffic Congestion Termed 'Very Serious'," *Fort Riley Post*, 29 January 1971, unknown page.

¹⁸¹ "\$75 Million Appropriation OKd.," *Fort Riley Post*, 2 October 1970, unknown page.


¹⁸² "Moving Dirt," *Fort Riley Post*, 16 Apr 1971, 6; "Custer Hill Traffic Congestion Termed 'Very Serious'," unknown page.

3 Architectural Overview of Evaluated Buildings Constructed 1964-1974

Of the 102 buildings surveyed and evaluated, 59 share enough original design similarities for them to be placed in groups, based on the standard plans used for their construction. The group size ranges from as few as two buildings to as many as nine buildings. A list of the buildings belonging to each group type is provided in Table 2, along with the relevant standard plan number, shared architectural features, and a representative photograph. The remaining 25 facilities that are not part of shared group types are listed with the same supporting information in Table 3. More detailed information on each facility surveyed can be found in the Volume 2 of this report, which contains the individual facility forms.¹⁸³



3.1 Common building types, features




Table 2. Classification and features of common building types.




Building Type (Standard Plan)	Building Number(s)	Type Features	Photo
Motor Pool Dispatch (36-31-02)	7352 7722 7742 7762 7782 7902 7922 7942 7962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Concrete-block structure • Steel awning windows • Single entry door • Utility mast (some missing) • Located at vehicle compound entry gate 	




¹⁸³ Due to security restrictions on information, Volume 2 is classified as "For Official Use Only." Fort Riley is the controlling authority for requests for access to Volume 2.


Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
Applied Instruction Building (30-08-01)	9001 9084 9160 9302 9309	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Rectangular plan • Gable roof • Light steel structure • Corrugated metal cladding • Steel hopper windows • End entry doors • Roof ventilators 	
Range House (30-08-01)	7717 9083 9090 9112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Rectangular plan • Gable roof • Light steel structure • Corrugated metal cladding • Steel hopper windows • Vehicle and personnel doors • Ridge vent 	

Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
Range Operations (30-08-02)	9204 9264	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Rectangular plan • Gable roof • Light steel structure • Corrugated metal cladding • Steel hopper windows • Vehicle and personnel doors • Ridge vent • Like range house but with smaller overhead door 	
Range Support (30-08-02)	9221 9241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Long rectangular plan • Gable roof • Light steel structure • Corrugated metal cladding • 6-over-12 steel hopper windows • Single- and double-entry doors • Ridge ventilator 	

Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
Battalion Equipment Storage (33-34-06)	7721 7741 7761 7781 7901 7921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Slight gable roof • Concrete-block structure • 6-over-6 steel hopper windows • Double-entry doors • Loading dock 	
Battalion Equipment Storage (33-34-08)	7941 7961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long rectangular plan • Slight gable roof • Concrete-block structure • 6-over-6 steel hopper windows • Double-entry doors • Loading dock 	
Motor Repair Shop (35-02-01)	7350 7720 7740 7760 (mod) 7780 (mod) 7900 7920 (star) 7940 7960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-shaped plan (except star building) • Flat roof • Concrete-block & steel structure • Awning & hopper windows • Primary entry through vehicle bay overhead doors 	

Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
5-Company Admin & Supply Building (30-14-03/1)	7602 7608 7658	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-shaped plan • Stepped shed roof • Loading dock at high shed • Offices at low shed • Concrete-block structure • Brick cladding • Windows at dock/offices/clerestory • Double doors at dock • Single doors at offices 	
5-Company Admin & Supply Building (30-14-03/2 & 3)	7808 7852 7858	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L-shaped plan • Slight gable roof • Loading dock half/office half • Concrete-block structure • Brick cladding • Windows at dock/offices/clerestory • Double doors at dock • Single doors at offices 	
Oil House (78-08-02)	7724 7744 7904 7944 7964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Low shed roof • Concrete-block structure • 6-lite awning windows • Double 1-lite doors 	


Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
Battalion Admin & Classroom (30-09-31)	7624 7630 7638	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-shaped plan • Low gable roof • Concrete-block structure • Brick veneer cladding • Triple and banded 1/1-lite hopper windows • Single storefront and 1-lite doors 	
Battalion Admin & Classroom (30-09-15)	7824 7836	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-shaped plan • Low gable roof • Concrete-block structure • Brick veneer cladding • Spandrel panels • Storefront and hung windows • Storefront doors 	
Gymnasium (31-06-31)	7632 7832	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • 1-story central mass with flanking high-bay gymnasiums • Slight gable roof • Steel-frame structure • Brick veneer and metal seam cladding • Fixed and hung windows • Storefront entry 	

Bldg Type (Standard Plan)	Bldg No(s).	Type Features	Photo
Table 2 (cont'd). Classification and features of common building types.			
Dispensary (32-06-30)	7626 7826	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangle plan • Low gable roof • Long recessed porches • Stacked concrete-block structure • Brick veneer cladding • Double aluminum storefront entry • Double aluminum hopper windows 	

3.2 Individual building features




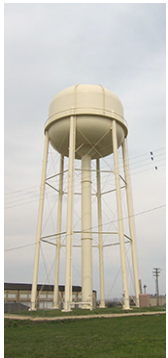
Those facilities that are not part of shared group types are listed in Table 3.




Table 3. Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
Review Stand (DABE-68-C-0087)	238	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone cladding • Concrete foundation • Located on Cavalry Parade Field • Custer Plaza to north 	





Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Motor Repair Shop (35-02-02)	2365	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Rectangular plan • Gable roof • Corrugated metal cladding • Steel hopper windows • End overhead doors 	
Golf Club House (26-C-65)	5202	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated • Brick and stucco skim coat cladding • Irregular plan • Aluminum windows • Gable roof • On golf course 	
Religious Educational Facility (38-01-17)	5315	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular plan • Gable roof • 3 wings • Steeple • Stained glass • Hung aluminum windows • Concrete block with brick and stone cladding 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Exchange Service Station (22-C-64)	5320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Concrete-block structure reclad in brick • Steel hopper windows • Aluminum storefront windows/doors • Original overhead door 	
Special Weapons Training Building (28-14-01)	7305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Slight gable roof • Concrete-block construction • Docks on north side • Aluminum and wood hung windows 	
Battalion Storage Building (33-34-01)	7351	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Slight gable roof • Concrete-block structure • Fixed aluminum windows • Located near Motor Pool entry 	
Bowling Center (102-C-65 (66))	7485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular plan • Flat roof • Concrete block with brick cladding • Aluminum awning and storefront windows • Large addition 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Potable water pump (71-08-20)	7514	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Concrete-block structure • Steel windows • Located near water tower 	
Exchange Branch (36-06-41)	7640	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Medium-pitch shed roof • Banded steel storefront windows • Concrete block with brick cladding • Clerestory 	
Dental Clinic (32-29-01)	7665	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Slightly pitched gable roof • Hung and fixed aluminum Chicago-style windows • Side loading dock • Concrete block with brick cladding • Wing walls at main entry 	
Water tower (71-08-20)	7775	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel frame with turnbuckle x-bracing • 500,000-gallon capacity • Access ladder • Surrounded by chain-link and razor wire fencing 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Regiment/Brigade Headquarter Building (30-02-66)	7834	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Slightly pitched flat roof • Awning and hung windows • 3-riser concrete stoop • Concrete block with brick veneer 	
Exchange Branch (36-06-71)	7840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular plan • Slightly pitched gable roof • Fixed aluminum windows • 1-riser concrete stoop • Concrete block with brick cladding and stucco boards over windows and doors • Solarium 	
Unit Chapel (38-01-41)	7865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular plan • Low-pitched gable roof • Steeple • Stained-glass windows • Concrete block with brick veneer • 1 wing • Wing walls at front entrance 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Fueling Station (36-21-02)	7923	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Concrete-block structure • Steel windows • Located in Building 7920 compound. 	
Wash Platform for Tanks (36-40-13)	7932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular plan • Concrete ramp to drain • Steel pipe railings • Water spigots • Bollards • Located in Building 7920 compound 	
Dispensary Without Beds (32-06-01)	8065	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-shaped plan • Flat roof with flat pitch • Fixed banded and awning windows • 3-riser concrete steps • Concrete block with brick cladding • Pilaster wing walls flanking windows and doors 	
Potable Water Pump (71-08-24)	8129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Concrete-block structure • Steel awning windows • One steel door on end • Located in water treatment area 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Observation Tower (30-08-01)	9113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Steel structure elevated on steel pipe supports with cross bracing • Metal seam cladding • Spiral stairs • Steel hopper windows 	
Observation Tower (30-08-02)	9208	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Steel structure elevated on steel pipe supports with cross bracing • Metal seam cladding • Aluminum hopper windows • Aluminum stairs 	
Water Well (28-13-110)	9210	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Steel frame • Corrugated metal cladding • One entry door • Surrounded by chain-link and barbed wire fencing 	
Range Support Building (30-08-02)	9300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Gable roof with ridge vent • Steel structure • Metal seam cladding • Aluminum awning windows • Located in Range Control complex 	

Building Type (Plan Number)	Building Number	Architectural Features	Photo
<i>Table 3 (cont'd). Features of buildings that are not part of shared group types.</i>			
Water well (30-08-01)	9305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plan • Flat roof • Steel structure • Standing metal seam cladding • One entry door • Located in Range Control complex 	
Loading/Unloading Dock/Ammo Platform (28-13-01)	9375	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular footprint • Reinforced concrete structure • Rubber bumpers • Steel plate protective edge at dock • Wooden stairs • 2.++Grounding infrastructure 	

4 Evaluation Results (Determination of Eligibility)

The identification of historically significant properties is achieved through the evaluation of their position within the larger historic context. According to the NRHP, historic contexts are defined as “...the patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within prehistory or history is made clear.”¹⁸⁴ A historic property is determined significant or not significant based on the application of standardized National Register Criteria within the property’s historical context.

4.1 Categories of historic properties

The NRHP categorizes significant properties as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects.¹⁸⁵ The definitions of these property types follow:

Building: A building is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. Examples of buildings include: administration building, house, barn, stable, train station, church, or shed.

Structure: Structures are distinguished from buildings by being functional constructions made for purposes other than creating human shelter. Examples of structures include: aircraft hangars, bandstands, bridges, canals, fences, kilns, or windmills.

Object: The term object is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples of objects include boundary markers, fountains, monuments, sculptures or statues.

Site: A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Examples of sites include: battlefield, campsite, ceremonial site, designed landscape, rock shelter, or village site.

District: A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district can comprise both features that lack individual distinction and individually distinctive features that serve as focal points. A group of features lacking in individual distinction may even be

¹⁸⁴NPS. *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 7.

¹⁸⁵ *ibid.*

considered eligible if the grouping achieves significance as a whole within its historic context. While a district derives its importance from being a unified entity, it can contain buildings, structures, sites, objects, or open spaces that do not contribute to the significance of the district if these properties do not adversely affect the district's integrity.

4.2 Criteria for evaluation

The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation describe how properties and districts are significant for their association with important events or persons (Criterion A and Criterion B), for their importance in design or construction (Criterion C), or for their information potential (Criterion D). The following is a brief description of each of the four NRHP Criteria for Evaluation (excerpted from *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*):¹⁸⁶

A. Event—associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. Person—associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Design/Construction—embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Information Potential—yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

4.3 Exceptional importance

Generally, buildings constructed within the past 50 years are not eligible for the National Register unless they can be classified as exceptionally important under Criteria Consideration G in the *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. “The National Register Criteria for Evaluation exclude properties that achieved significance within the past fifty years unless they are of exceptional importance. Fifty years is a general estimate of the time

¹⁸⁶ NPS. *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 7.

needed to develop historical perspective and to evaluate significance. This consideration guards against the listing of properties of passing contemporary interest and ensures that the National Register is a list of truly historic places.”¹⁸⁷

Although the National Register Criteria do not explicitly define exceptional “importance” or “significance,” consideration of National Register Criteria Consideration G in *National Register Bulletin 15* and another document, *National Register Bulletin 22: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years* offer guidance for identifying and evaluating properties that have achieved significance in the last fifty years.¹⁸⁸ Both of these sources stress that sufficient historical perspective must exist in order to make justifiable determinations of exceptional significance for such properties. Proof that sufficient historical perspective exists usually comes in the form of scholarly research and other sources of historical evidence associated with a particular historic context.

For this study, many of the facilities have reached the 50-year mark, and the others are approaching that age. The historic timeframe under which significance was evaluated encompasses the Vietnam War, which ended 42 years ago. Additionally, extensive scholarly study of the Vietnam War period has been made over this span of time, documenting the political, social, and military history of the time. As a result, sufficient historical perspective does exist for these properties to allow well educated assessments of the facilities’ status as historic or not historic to be made. The requirements to meet Criteria Consideration G, therefore, were not applied in the evaluation of these 84 buildings.¹⁸⁹

4.4 Aspects of historic integrity

In addition to possessing historical significance, a property must also retain sufficient physical integrity of features to convey its significance, in

¹⁸⁷ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 41.

¹⁸⁸ *ibid.*, 41–43; NPS, *National Register Bulletin #22: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1998).

¹⁸⁹ There were 18 buildings inventoried that were determined to fall under either the UPH Program Comment or the Ammunition Storage Program Comment (see Table 1). As these buildings are thus considered eligible, they were not evaluated in this report.

order to be eligible to the NRHP.¹⁹⁰ Historic properties either retain their integrity and convey their significance, or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the NRHP criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity, a property will always possess several, and usually most, of its historic aspects. Retaining specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.

Districts and individual resources are considered to retain their integrity if they possess a majority of the following Seven Aspects of Integrity:¹⁹¹

1. *Location.* Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
2. *Design.* Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. It results from conscious decisions made during the original conception and planning of a property (or its significant alteration) and applies to activities as diverse as community planning, engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.
3. *Setting.* Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.
4. *Materials.* Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration, to form a historic property.

¹⁹⁰ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 44.

¹⁹¹ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 44.

5. *Workmanship*. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or pre-history.
6. *Feeling*. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period.
7. *Association*. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

Integrity has very specific connotations in defining historic and cultural resources. Integrity is the authenticity of physical characteristics from which resources obtain their significance. Historic properties convey their significance through their integrity.

4.5 Recommendations for significance

As with most military cultural property resources, significance derives from the role that a resource played in carrying out the military mission. The basic mission of Fort Riley during the period of significance was to train recruits to function as combat soldiers in Vietnam. Toward this goal, facilities and structures were provided for supplying recruits with the necessary skills.

4.5.1 Significance under Criterion A

As a result of the inventory field work and the archival research conducted for this project, the authors developed one NRHP Criterion A historical theme that represents the significance of Fort Riley during the period under study, *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam*; this theme is defined as follows:

Some form of ground combat training was required for most Army personnel deploying to Vietnam. The increased demand for troops in Vietnam required military installations to adapt to the large influx of recruits for training before deployment. Ground combat training was a primary component of preparing a soldier to fight in Vietnam, providing and honing various required skills. New facilities were constructed to address training demands such as an increase in facilities needed, evolving weapon types and associated training facility changes, and the need for Vietnam-oriented training.

The period of significance, therefore, is 1965–1972—the period when training activities at Fort Riley were primarily focused on training recruits for ground combat duty in Vietnam. Historic significance in terms of NRHP Criterion A derives from their being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. For the facilities evaluated here under the historic theme of *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam*, the historically significant facilities must meet three criteria: they must have a direct connection to the Fort Riley mission of training recruits for ground combat; they were built during the period 1965–1972; and they represent a significant property type for this theme.

4.5.1.1 Significant Vietnam combat training property types

Property types exist when more than one resource share characteristics of either form or function (or both) that tie them together thematically. Property types can be a defining theme in a district, or they can be a common denominator of properties that are widely scattered. Whether co-located or dispersed, the properties' shared characteristics can illustrate a theme that is representative of a particular historic context.

A new report on DoD ground combat training for Vietnam has just been completed for the DoD Legacy Resource Management Office.¹⁹² In addition to providing a nationwide and service-wide historic context, the report provides information on the property types determined to be significant nationwide and service-wide under the historic context for ground combat training for Vietnam: Training Ranges, Courses, and Mock Villages.¹⁹³

4.5.1.1.1 Training Ranges

Ranges used during the Vietnam War included small arms ranges, bayonet/pugil training courts, hand and rifle grenade ranges, hand-to-hand combat ranges, bivouac areas, fortified areas, machine gun emplacement mock-ups, mines and booby trap ranges, and large arms ranges. Large-

¹⁹² Ellen R. Hartman, Megan W. Tooker, Adam D. Smith, and Susan I. Enscoe, *Vietnam and the Home Front: Ground Combat Training, 1962–1975*, ERDC-CERL TR-17-1, (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2017). This nationwide/service-wide document contains a historic context and discussion of significant property types related to ground combat training for Vietnam.

¹⁹³ *ibid.*, 101–102.

scale operation areas were also utilized for realistic, multiple-day training exercises, and maneuvers.

4.5.1.1.2 Courses

Courses were designed as timed circuits where recruits moved through space while encountering a variety of environmental conditions and obstacles. Courses provided training where soldiers learned how to maneuver over difficult terrain, use weapons under challenging circumstances, and react quickly and efficiently while under pressure. Examples of courses used in Vietnam training include attack, close-combat, infiltration, and obstacle courses.

4.5.1.1.3 Mock Villages

The U.S. military constructed a variety of training villages and mock sites (including POW camps) in an effort to create realistic combat environments for training. These villages were built by using materials that mimicked those found in Vietnam, such as thatched roofing. Villages included such details as intricate tunnel systems, mock wells, perimeter fencing, mock rice fields, and vegetation used as camouflage.

In most cases, these property types will need to be examined as components in a cultural landscape, as some had no buildings or structures. Other property types were a combination of buildings, structures, and sites.

4.5.1.2 Significance under the Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam theme

The NRHP Criteria of Significance were applied to each of the 84 evaluated facilities. Criterion A was applied to determine if a facility is individually significant or significant as part of a historic district, under the significance theme of *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam*.

None of the facilities surveyed possessed significance under the Criterion A historic theme. The facilities were strictly of a supporting nature, and none of the facilities at Custer Hill were directly related to ground combat training as determined by the significant property types of ranges, courses, or mock villages.

The authors were tasked in this project to inventory and evaluate individual buildings. Existing facilities related to the ground combat training property types, however, must be looked at as sites in the landscape because they contain components that are neither buildings nor structures. There are several ranges at Fort Riley within the period of significance that were likely used for training ground combat troops for deployment to Vietnam. These ranges may be significant under the *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam* theme, but they will need to be evaluated as sites, with consideration given to all their component elements. Therefore, ten of the individual facilities surveyed for this project that were located on these ranges could not be evaluated and are, at this point, determined to be “unevaluated, pending further investigation.” Facilities that are located on training lands, but not directly associated with a specific range, are not significant as they do not meet one of the significant property types.

No Vietnam combat training properties related to courses or mock villages were encountered during this project, so the potential existence or eligibility of these types of resources is unknown.

4.5.2 Significance under Criterion B

The available historical records provided no indication that the surveyed properties were associated with the life of an individual significant in United States history.

4.5.3 Significance under Criterion C

The surveyed facilities do not individually characterize the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that is architecturally significant, they do not represent the work of a master, nor do they possess high artistic values. They were either constructed from standard plans, were variations of standard plans, were not specifically designed, or were prefabricated. In its 1998 study of cold war era military-industrial properties, the Department of the Army determined that “for an Army Cold War property to be considered under this criterion, the design must be directly associated with the Army and the Cold War,” and it has to be related to one of the Cold War themes laid out in the 1998 report.¹⁹⁴ The

¹⁹⁴ Horne Engineering & Associates and Mary K. Lavin, Thematic Study and Guidelines: Identification and Evaluation of U.S. Army Cold War Era Military-Industrial Historic Properties, (Aberdeen Proving Ground: U.S. Army Environmental Center), 1998, 116.

relevant theme is Operational Forces, but the document goes on to say that “real property associated with operational forces”¹⁹⁵ includes large numbers of base operations facilities, such as “barracks, office buildings, motor pools, unit maintenance activities, family housing, personnel support facilities, and related property types.”¹⁹⁶ Base operations facilities are property types that “have been associated with the Army throughout its history and are not unique to the Cold War era,” and are not generally evaluated under the military-industrial Cold War historic context.¹⁹⁷ The cantonment buildings inventoried for this report are primarily base operations facilities.

Facilities associated with the barracks complexes were also looked at as a potential district per the guidelines in Criterion C. Although the UPH ancillary facilities were constructed concurrent with, and as a part of the UPH barracks complexes on Custer Hill, they are not considered significant under Criterion C as part of the UPH context. The UPH Program Comment¹⁹⁸ covers the barracks and mess halls only, with those facilities alone considered eligible to the NRHP. The Program Comment discusses districts in terms of collections of barracks buildings only. The support facilities are mentioned in the UPH historic context, and are discussed as associated elements, but they do not rise to the level of significance.

The grandstand (Facility 238) on the edge of the Cavalry Parade Field is within the Fort Riley Main Post Historic District. Although it is constructed of stone in keeping with other facilities in the district, it is a later addition outside the district’s period of significance. It is, therefore, considered compatible, but non-contributing to the district.

4.5.4 Significance under Criterion D

The available historical records provided no indication that the study properties have yielded, or were likely to yield, any information important in prehistory or history beyond what the real property records, architectural drawings, and archival research have already yielded.

¹⁹⁵ Horne Engineering & Associates and Mary K. Lavin, *Thematic Study and Guidelines*, 82.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 104.

¹⁹⁸ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. *Program Comment For Cold War Era Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (1946–1974)*, 2007.

4.5.5 State or local significance

The facilities inventoried and evaluated at Fort Riley that were constructed from 1964 to 1974 are not eligible under Criterion A at the state or local level since the program for ground combat training of recruits was federally funded and national in scope.

There is no indication in the available historical record that any facilities evaluated for this study are eligible under Criterion B as significantly related to a person historically significant at a state or local level.

There is no indication in the available historical record that any facilities evaluated for this study are significant under Criterion C for design/construction at a state or local level. Design and construction documents indicate that virtually all permanent properties under study were of types commissioned by the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE) in Washington, DC, and of types constructed on a nationwide scale. The involvement of local architects, engineers, fabricators, and contractors to address site-specific conditions was standard practice at the time of construction and did not produce any variations or innovations of local or state significance.

There is no indication in the available historical record that that any facilities evaluated for this study are significant under Criterion D for being able to provide additional information important in prehistory or history at a state or local level.

4.5.6 Facilities found not significant

Buildings and structures found in this study to be not significant fall generally within one of three categories: utilities; morale, welfare and recreation (MWR); and activity support. Utilities largely included buildings inventoried that were related to water/sewer systems. MWR facilities inventoried included chapels, gymnasiums, and exchanges. Activity support buildings under this study included motor pool facilities, administrative facilities, and prefabricated buildings used for range support. None of these facilities were directly related to the significant Criterion A historic theme, or rose to significance under Criterion C.

4.6 Evaluations of integrity

Assessments of integrity are only completed if a property has significance under one of the four criteria. None of the properties under study achieved significance under the *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam* historical theme under Criterion A, and no information was located indicating significance under Criterion B or Criterion C. Thus, there was no need to proceed to assessments of integrity for the facilities surveyed. The ten facilities that may be eligible as component elements of significant ranges will have their integrity evaluated when the ranges as a whole are evaluated in a future project.

4.7 Final determinations of eligibility to the NRHP

To be eligible for listing on the NRHP, a property must have an association with a relevant historic context as well as having retained its physical integrity through which its historic significance is conveyed. The determinations of eligibility to the NRHP for each of the 84 facilities that were surveyed and evaluated for this report are presented below in Table 4.

Table 4. Determinations of eligibility for facilities evaluated for this project.

Building Number	Year Built	Current Function	Significant (Yes/No)	Integrity (Yes/No)	Eligible to NRHP (Yes/No)
238	1968	Grandstand/Bleachers	No	n/a	No
2365	1969	Exchange Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
5202	1966	Sports Pro Shop	No	n/a	No
5315	1965	Chapel	No	n/a	No
5320	1965	Exchange Auto Service with Above Ground MOGAS Storage	No	n/a	No
7305	1966	General Instruction Building	No	n/a	No
7350	1966	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7351	1966	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7352	1966	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7485	1967	Bowling Center	No	n/a	No
7514	1969	Potable Pump Station	No	n/a	No

Building Number	Year Built	Current Function	Significant (Yes/No)	Integrity (Yes/No)	Eligible to NRHP (Yes/No)
<i>Table 4 (cont'd). Determinations of eligibility for facilities evaluated for this project.</i>					
7602	1969	Company Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7608	1969	Company Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7624	1969	Battalion Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7626	1969	Brigade Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7630	1969	Organizational Classroom	No	n/a	No
7632	1969	Physical Fitness Center	No	n/a	No
7638	1969	Battalion Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7640	1969	Exchange Branch	No	n/a	No
7658	1969	Company Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7665	1966	Health Clinic	No	n/a	No
7717	1970	Range Operations Building	No	n/a	No
7720	1969	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7721	1969	Administration/Shop Control	No	n/a	No
7722	1969	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7724	1969	Oil Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7740	1969	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7741	1970	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7742	1969	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7744	1969	Oil Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7760	1969	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7761	1970	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7762	1969	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7775	1969	Potable Water Storage Tank	No	n/a	No

Building Number	Year Built	Current Function	Significant (Yes/No)	Integrity (Yes/No)	Eligible to NRHP (Yes/No)
<i>Table 4 (cont'd). Determinations of eligibility for facilities evaluated for this project.</i>					
7780	1969	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7781	1970	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7782	1969	Access Control Facility	No	n/a	No
7808	1970	General Purpose Admin	No	n/a	No
7824	1970	Organizational Classroom	No	n/a	No
7826	1970	General Purpose Admin	No	n/a	No
7832	1970	Physical Fitness Center	No	n/a	No
7834	1971	Brigade Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7836	1970	General Purpose Admin	No	n/a	No
7840	1970	Exchange Branch	No	n/a	No
7852	1970	General Purpose Admin	No	n/a	No
7858	1970	Company Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
7865	1970	Normandy Chapel (reconstructed in 1984 after fire in 1981)	No	n/a	No
7900	1969	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7901	1970	Administration/Shop Control	No	n/a	No
7902	1969	Access Control Facility	No	n/a	No
7904	1969	Oil Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7920	1973	General Purpose Storage	No	n/a	No
7921	1973	Installation General Purpose Storage	No	n/a	No
7922	1973	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7923	1973	Installation Flammable Material Storage	No	n/a	No
7932	1973	Organizational Wash Platform	No	n/a	No
7940	1972	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No

Building Number	Year Built	Current Function	Significant (Yes/No)	Integrity (Yes/No)	Eligible to NRHP (Yes/No)
<i>Table 4 (cont'd). Determinations of eligibility for facilities evaluated for this project.</i>					
7941	1973	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7942	1973	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7944	1972	Oil Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7960	1972	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	No	n/a	No
7961	1973	Organizational Storage Building	No	n/a	No
7962	1973	Dispatch Building	No	n/a	No
7964	1972	Oil Storage Building	No	n/a	No
8065	1977	Brigade Headquarters Building	No	n/a	No
8129	1973	Potable Pump Station	No	n/a	No
9001	1969	Range Support Facility	No	n/a	No
9083	1970	Range Support Facility	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9084	1970	Range Support Facility	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9090	1969	Range Operations Building	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9112	1969	Range Operations Building (moved)	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9113	1969	Observation Tower (moved)	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9160	1969	Range Support Facility	No	n/a	No
9204	1969	Range Operations Building	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation

Building Number	Year Built	Current Function	Significant (Yes/No)	Integrity (Yes/No)	Eligible to NRHP (Yes/No)
<i>Table 4 (cont'd). Determinations of eligibility for facilities evaluated for this project.</i>					
9208	1969	Observation Tower	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9210	1969	Water Support/Treatment Building	No	n/a	No
9221	1969	Range Support Facility with Above-ground LP Gas Storage	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9241	1969	Range Support Facility	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9264	1969	Range Operations Building	tbd	tbd	unevaluated pending further investigation
9300	1969	Range Support Facility	No	n/a	No
9302	1969	Range Support Facility	No	n/a	No
9305	1969	Potable Water Well	No	n/a	No
9309	1970	Range Support Facility (moved)	No	n/a	No
9375	1969	Load/Unload Dock/Ramp	No	n/a	No

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

Due to the new requirements for eligibility of properties associated with ground combat training for Vietnam, it was determined that no properties evaluated in the study were eligible for the NRHP, as evaluated individually. None of the properties were classifiable as one of the three eligible property types under this historical theme. However, there are ten inventoried properties that may be eligible under the *Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam* historical theme. One of the significant property types for this training is ranges, and the inventoried properties on ranges from this period need to be evaluated holistically with the other range components as a historic site. The scope of this project did not include evaluation of the ranges that contained the surveyed buildings.

It is recommended that Fort Riley undertake a comprehensive thematic study of its ranges as part of a cultural landscape survey of the areas outside of the Main Post. A cultural landscape survey would include both cultural and natural resources associated with the history of Fort Riley. This future study would include the training lands on the reservation and would determine if any significant Vietnam ground combat training properties do exist on Fort Riley. This proposed effort could fully apply the historic context in *Vietnam and the Home Front: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962-1975*,¹⁹⁹ and the historic context and criteria for eligibility contained in *Vietnam and the Home Front: Ground Combat Training*.²⁰⁰ The landscape study should evaluate remaining Vietnam-era ranges, courses, and mock villages as sites with component parts including buildings, structures, and associated terrain elements such as firing pits, tunnels, berms, barriers, target butts, trails, and obstacles.

¹⁹⁹ Hartman et al., ERDC-CERL TR-14-17, 2014.

²⁰⁰ Hartman et al., ERDC-CERL TR-17-1, 2017.

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14. ABSTRACT This two-volume report documents an architectural survey of 102 buildings and structures constructed from 1964 to 1974 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Volume 1 includes an analysis of the eligibility of these buildings and structures to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Volume 2 contains actual building forms and its access is controlled by Fort Riley for security reasons. During the covered period, Fort Riley's primary mission was training recruits for deployment to South Vietnam. As a result, the relevant theme developed for determining historical significance at Fort Riley is <i>Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam</i> . Of the facilities inventoried, none achieved significance under this theme, and therefore no facilities were determined to be eligible to the NRHP. However, a group of ten facilities associated with training ranges may be significant under this theme and need to be evaluated as component parts of range sites. The remaining facilities inventoried and evaluated at Fort Riley are support structures that are not directly related to the theme of <i>Recruit Training for Ground Combat in Vietnam</i> and are not a property type eligible under this theme.					
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